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VOLUME LXIII, NUMBER 1929 • FRIDAY, JUNE 7, 1996 • SIVAN 20, 5756 • MAHARRAM 2 • NIS: 6:00 AELAT-NIS



Border policemen check permits of Gaza workers at the Erez checkpoint yesterday as 12,000 Palestinians over 35 years old were permitted to return to work in Israel. (Reuters)

## US: No hope for talks with Syria without including Golan concessions

DAVID MAKOVSKY, HILLEL KUTTLER, ELDAD BECK, and news agencies

THE talks with Syria do not have much hope of progressing if prime minister-elect Binjamin Netanyahu refuses to discuss concessions on the Golan Heights, a senior Clinton administration official said yesterday.

"They're not much interested in pursuing negotiations unless the territorial dimension is a part of it," he said.

Another senior US official concurred, saying, "If [Netanyahu] comes out and says, 'There will be no territorial compromise on the Golan,' I don't think that's a process that can be sustained or even started."

A day earlier, State Department spokesman Nicholas Burns said that US peacemaking has been based on a land-for-peace formula.

Yet, on eve of a three-way Arab summit in Damascus, Netanyahu made it clear that he has no intention of yielding on the Golan, but insisted that he had ideas of his own to advance the talks with Syria.

Syrian President Hafez Assad is to host the summit, which will be attended by Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak and Saudi Crown Prince Abdullah - who will be standing in for King Fahd, who is ill. The leaders of the three countries last met in Alexandria 18 months ago. That meeting led to a slowing of normalization between Israel and Gulf and North African countries.

Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Moussa said the summit serve to "study the Arab situation, bring Arab states together and support a just and balanced peace process, based on the principle of land for peace."

Spurred on by quiet US prodding, Arab leaders such as Mubarak have argued for not pre-

judging Netanyahu.

US officials say that Assad has avoided being too negative, as he does not want to preclude progress, but is seeking to ensure that Israel is blamed in the event that talks collapse.

"It's Assad saying, 'I can be much more judgmental, more vituperative, but I'm not. I'm taking the high-road approach.' That's the public position," a US official said.

"Assad may feel, just possibly, that this government - there may be something there for us. One thing Assad has managed to avoid - and the Syrians have screwed up left and right - is bawing the finger of blame placed on him."

"[He's saying:] 'Let them construct their own noose,' " the official added.

Netanyahu, visiting Haifa, Taiba, and Netivot yesterday, made his first specific reference to Syria since being elected.

"I think there are additional ways to advance confidence building between Syria and Israel, and alleviate the tension and the existing situation of hostility ahead of full peace and a peace treaty," he told reporters.

He insisted that he wants to hold talks with Syria, but indicated that he does not want to yield the Golan. "We have already had talks. We started at Madrid and we made it clear to Assad that we will remain on the Golan Heights," he said.

Netanyahu has said he would favor partial agreements with Syria on issues such as water, and could envision helping Damascus get off the State Department list of countries sponsoring

terrorism if it expelled terrorists from its soil. US officials have privately expressed the belief that this idea is unworkable.

Meanwhile, Foreign Ministry Director-General Uri Savir and senior IDF officers briefed Netanyahu aides Dore Gold and Danny Naveh on the Lebanon monitoring group which is being established in the aftermath of Operation Grapes of Wrath.

A decision on the scope and responsibilities of the group must be made within the next week, sources said. Savir has already briefed Gold on Hebron, and is expected to shortly brief him on technical aspects of Oslo 2.

According to information reaching *The Jerusalem Post* in Paris regarding a recent meeting between Assad and a French figure in Damascus, the Syrian leader believes he can reach an agreement with Netanyahu by way of US mediation.

Assad said the agreement will include not only the Golan, but also Lebanon, hinting that Israeli concessions over Lebanon will enable Syria unspecified flexibility on the Golan.

According to the French figure, Syria is in favor of Netanyahu's position rejecting Palestinian statehood.

French diplomatic sources insist there have been indirect contacts between Netanyahu and the Syrian government prior to the elections. The sources say a "communication channel" has been established enabling the two sides to exchange messages.

Netanyahu has denied that he has sent any messages to the Syrians.

## Coalition talks falter due to religious parties' tough demands

SARAH HONIG

THE coalition negotiations ran into trouble yesterday over the demands of the religious parties, most notably on how to define the status quo on religious affairs. The sides adjourned last night without agreement.

The coalition guidelines were not the only source of difficulty. Portfolio demands and the bickering between the National Religious Party and Shas over the Religious Affairs portfolio, as well as increasing unrest inside the Likud, also cast a shadow over the talks.

The negotiations will resume only on Sunday.

The lack of progress, however, did not seem to dampen the optimism around prime minister-elect Binjamin Netanyahu. Difficulties, those close to him said, can only be expected in the opening phases of the haggling, when the sides put their toughest positions on the table. "The religious parties are sure to get more realistic," they argued.

Sources close to Netanyahu continued to say that the coalition would be set up soon, and that the new government would be ready for its first vote of confidence when the new Knesset convenes on June 17.

It was noted that Netanyahu has been invited to Washington at the end of the month, and it is unlikely he would go before his government is established.

Likud sources said the party's negotiators

were quite stunned by the demands the three religious parties put to them. They included returning to the status quo on religious affairs that existed before the Labor victory in 1992, making recognition of all conversions conditional on approval by the Chief Rabbinate, enacting a basic law guaranteeing the Jewish character of the state, and guaranteeing that there would be no legislative initiative or adding new coalition partners without the consent of all members of the original coalition.

The latter demand is seen as an attempt by the religious parties to win veto power on admitting Labor into the coalition, something the Likud might wish to do to limit the power of its smaller coalition partners. Meretz had elicited a similar clause from Labor in the 1992 coalition agreement.

The Likud negotiators reacted by telling the religious parties they must tone down their aspirations and not press on with demands which they know the Likud could not meet.

Shas MK Shlomo Benizri accused the Likud negotiators of "talking to us insensitively, as if we had asked for things that are above and beyond what could be considered as reasonable."

NRP MK Yitzhak Levy wondered "why the

Likud is getting so upset. After all, we asked for nothing much. This is a list of our minimal demands."

Likud MK Tzahi Hanegbi noted that "the problem lies in defining the status quo. The religious parties say they cannot agree to freeze things as they now are, because the Labor-Meretz government had altered the status quo adversely, from the religious point of view. They want to go back to the way things were, and agreeing on just where we draw the line is the chief difficulty."

Added pressure on the Likud came from the Third Way, which made its own demands on religious issues, and which underscored that it was also speaking on behalf of Yisrael Ba'aliya. These parties demand that no move be made to either amend existing basic laws or enact new ones without their agreement. They also insist on retaining full rights to vote their conscience on religious issues, a situation which, in theory, could deny the coalition a majority when such issues come up in the Knesset.

MK Dan Meridor denied that he lost his temper during the negotiations and had threatened the religious parties with the national unity option, which would cut their bargaining power.

The Likud also failed to win the support of

## Turkish Prime Minister Mesut Yilmaz quits

ANKARA (AP) - Prime Minister Mesut Yilmaz resigned yesterday after only three months in office, possibly opening the way for a pro-Islamic party to come to power.

Yilmaz acted after a high court said a vote of confidence his government received was invalid. But the government had been on the brink of collapse for days and faced a no-confidence vote in Parliament tomorrow that it was expected to lose.

The leader of the Islamic party expressed satisfaction.

"Now the mandate to form the next government should be handed to me - within half an hour," Necmettin Erbakan, leader of the Welfare Party, said.

However, President Suleyman Demirel said he would meet with all party leaders today before designating one to try to form another coalition.

Yilmaz said he would meet social democrat leader Deniz Baykal later yesterday in what may be an attempt to form a center-right alliance.

The current coalition collapsed

mostly due to personal rivalry between Yilmaz and his coalition partner, former prime minister Tansu Ciller.

The two leaders, who had agreed to rotate the premiership, have been battling since the alliance was forged.

"Our goal is to come up with a coalition formula from within this parliament," before early elections are considered, Yilmaz said.

Yilmaz will serve as caretaker until a new government is formed.

Ciller had earlier withdrawn her True Path Party from the government coalition. The break came after Yilmaz supported corruption allegations against her that were brought by the Welfare Party.

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Beersheba	7:20	8:18
Eilat	7:16	8:21

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# Justice Ministry probing Border Police killing of Arab

BILL HUTMAN

BORDER policemen shot and killed a Palestinian and moderately wounded his brother in Jerusalem early yesterday morning, with one of the policemen saying they opened fire after they saw the dead man make a motion as if he were drawing a gun.

The man turned out to be unarmed and, according to Palestinian sources, the policemen were not in uniform, which raises questions about the circumstances surrounding the incident.

The Justice Ministry Police Investigations Division has opened an inquiry into the shooting, which occurred at around 2:30 a.m. in the Wadi Kadoum neighborhood, south of the Old City. The dead man is hotel worker Daoud Shweikeh, 28, a father of



Daoud Shweikeh

said several men in civilian clothes opened fire from the van without warning when they approached.

Palestinian sources said the occupants were apparently undercover policemen on an operation on patrol in the area. The sources said undercover units have been frequently seen in Arab neighborhoods in recent months.

The brothers have no criminal records, according to the sources. Mohammed was taken to Hadasah-University Hospital, Ein Kerem, they said.

The Jerusalem police spokesman, in a statement, said a Border Police force was operating in the neighborhood and spotted three men. One policeman said that one of the men motioned as if he was pulling a gun, and the force opened fire, killing him.

The border policemen also shot at the two other residents who tried to flee, moderately wounding one of them. They detained the other, the spokesman said. He said the body of Daoud Shweikeh was taken to the Institute for Forensic Medicine at Abu Kabir.

The spokesman declined further comment, saying the Justice Ministry is investigating.

## DEPARTURES

CHARLEY J. LEVINE, President, Charles Levine Communications (CLC), to Moscow, joining the international election monitoring team of the Appeal for Conscience Foundation.

SUSAN GOPSTEIN, Executive Vice-President, Charles Levine Communications (CLC), for consultations on New York and Washington, DC, concerning the release from prison of Jonathan Pollard.

three. Mohammed Shweikeh, 18, was moderately wounded. A third brother, Wahba, whose age was not immediately available, was detained by police, and released later in the day.

Yakuh Shweikeh said he and his three sons spotted a suspicious van outside their home, and went to investigate, thinking it might be car thieves. Shweikeh



Prime minister-elect Binyamin Netanyahu poses with Majeed, a Taiba youth, whom he promised six weeks ago that if elected, he would ensure all Israeli children have equal opportunity. Yesterday, Netanyahu told Majeed he would have the same opportunities as his son, Yair. (Gideon Markovitz/PPA)

# Bar-Ilan graduates celebrate university's 40th year

YOCHI DREAZEN

OVER 3,000 graduates of Bar-Ilan University, including six MKs and seven IDF generals, gathered last night in Ramat Gan's National Park to mark the university's 40th anniversary.

The reunion, which featured speeches by President Ezer Weizman and Chief Rabbi Yisroel Meir Lau, a concert by Duda Fisher, and an award ceremony honoring 60 outstanding graduates - was the concluding event in a year-long celebration of the anniversary.

"The purpose of tonight's event is to celebrate the university and the accomplishments of its graduates, in all walks of life," said University President Moshe Kaveth.

Several of the graduates said that their years at Bar-Ilan prepared them for both professional and personal success.

"The classes and atmosphere here, whether or not you're religious, are important to help you understand what it means to be a Jew in the State of Israel," said Police Inspector-General Assaf Hefetz.

"Taking the time to learn things other than the day-to-day affairs of the Air Force was wonderful," said OC Air Force Maj.-Gen. Herzi Bodinger, who started studies at the school in 1987. "But the best parts were meeting young people and learning things about Judaism and Israel that non-Orthodox kids don't always get a chance to learn."

Most of those honored expressed shock at the attacks on the university after the slaying of prime minister Yitzhak Rabin.

"Bar-Ilan has always tried to help its students find common ground, to teach both religious and secular studies about each other," said MK Shaul Yahalom of the National Religious Party. "It hurt me that so many were so quick to attack the school."

The evening, however, was as much about the future as the past. "Look forward to doing this again at the 50th anniversary," Kaveth said. "I look forward to showing how we have continued on our special path."

# Ramon accuses Barak, pollster of joining in political conspiracy

MICHAEL YUDELMAN

THE mud-slinging in Labor continued yesterday, as Interior Minister Haim Ramon accused Foreign Minister Ehud Barak and pollster Yossi Vadana of a political conspiracy and of sabotaging the party's election campaign.

Vadana, the director of Shvachkin Panorama, had been a member of a team appointed by Prime Minister Shimon Peres to monitor the campaign and conduct independent public opinion polls. Labor secretary-general Nissim Zivli and businessman Jean Friedman were also on the team.

Vadana revealed a few days ago that he conducted polls a month-and-a-half before the elections that indicated that prime minister-elect Binyamin Netanyahu had not only closed the gap with Peres but was overtaking him.

But Ramon, Labor's campaign information director, would not heed his warnings and did not take his surveys seriously, he said. Ramon and the others on the campaign information staff kept telling Peres he would win, and to pay no attention to polls showing otherwise, he said.

Vadana also said that after the

television debate, while Labor claimed victory for Peres, he showed Ramon and Peres polls showing Netanyahu had won, and suggested how to correct that in the two remaining days of the campaign. Ramon continued to ignore his findings.

In a sharp letter of reply to Vadana, Ramon yesterday accused him and Barak, who was head of Peres's personal campaign and in charge of dealing with surveys, of hiding information from Ramon "either by mistake or more probably deliberately, and using this information after the elections to create a false situation as though you had warned me against failure."

Ramon charged that keeping this information from him "is a serious act bordering on deliberate sabotage of the election campaign for tendentious reasons."

"The attempt by yourself and by your employer, Barak, to keep essential information from me, and to accuse me of hiding information which I didn't have at my disposal, makes you knowingly or unknowingly, an accomplice in a political

conspiracy planned in advance." Barak refused to comment yesterday, except to say that Vadana had not been employed by him.

Sources close to Barak said he does not intend to react to a new accusation from Ramon every day and is now devoting his time to planning the future, rather than remaining mired in the past.

Barak, the sources said, has not met with any Likud personality to discuss the possible forming of a national unity government. Nor has he expressed any opinion concerning this option, saying only that if Netanyahu makes such a proposal, Peres will have to decide how to respond.

It is assumed, however, that Barak will support joining a national unity government if the possibility presents itself.

Internal Security Minister Moshe Shahal yesterday blasted Barak and Ramon for their mutual recriminations at a meeting of regional campaign heads. "Never has a party with so many achievements been so inept at conveying this to the public," he said.

Shahal also spoke sharply against "crawling" to a national unity government.

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**Day One**  
Wednesday, June 12, 1996, Auditorium B'nei Zion, Beth Hatefuzoth, Museum of the Jewish Diaspora, Tel Aviv University

9:30-10:40 Greetings by Conveners, Congratulations and Introduction  
Martin Kramer, Yuval Ne'eman, Mirna Rozen, all Tel Aviv University; Greetings: Prime Minister and Minister of Defense, Mr. Shimon Peres and Mayor of Tel Aviv-Yafo, Mr. Roni Milo; Congratulations: Bernard Lewis, Princeton University; Introduction

11:00-12:30 First Facinations  
Mirna Rozen, Tel Aviv University; Redemptive Memory, Recovered, Invented: Benjamin Disraeli between East and West; Jacob Lassner, Northwestern University; Abraham Geiger on Jewish Influences and the Origins of Islam

2:30-3:50 The Adventure of Islam  
Benjamin Braude, Boston College; 'Jew' and Jesus at the Origins of Arabism; William Gifford Palgrave; Jacob Landau, Hebrew University; Arminius Vambury; Traveller and Scholar

4:10-5:00 The Founder  
Lawrence Conrad, Wellcome Institute, London; Ignaz Goldziher on Ruman; Orientalist Philology and the Intellectual Roots of the Modern Western Study of Islam

**Day Two**  
Thursday, June 13, 1996, Malka Breuer Hall of Justice, Trubowicz Building for Law, Tel Aviv University

9:30-10:50 Mediterranean Masters  
Dan Segre, Haifa University; Assimilation, Patriotism and Faith: Giorgio Levi della Vida; David J. Wasserstein, Tel Aviv University; Evariste Levy-Bryel and the History of Islam in the Iberian Peninsula

11:10-12:30 Trial by Fire  
Joel Kraemer, University of Chicago; From Prague to Cairo: The Orientalism of Paul Kraus; Yaaron Isaac, Tel Aviv University; The Historical Representation of the Jews in Robert Brunschwig's Work on the Hafsid

2:30-3:50 Toward East and West  
Martin Kramer, Tel Aviv University; Jew into Muslim: Leopold Weiss/Muhammad Asad; Shalom Selig, Tel Aviv University; S.M. Stern: Jewish Aspects of his Islamic Studies

4:10-5:00 The New School  
Havah Lazarus-Yafeh, Hebrew University; The Transplantation of Islamic Studies from Europe to Palestine-Israel; Josef Horowitz, S.D. Goitein and D.Z. Baneth

5:00-5:45 General Discussion: Jews, Islam, and the West

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Graduation will begin at 6:00 PM on the College campus. The public is invited.

**COALITION**

(Continued from Page 1) the religious parties for its portfolio offers. To make peace between Shas and the NRP over Religious Affairs, the Likud suggested Ovadia Eli (who lost his Knesset seat) have the portfolio. But the NRP's Shaul Yahalom called this "an attempt by the Likud to usurp this portfolio. We will not agree to this. We will not serve in the government if this portfolio is not in our hands or in the hands of someone we agree on."

The Likud also offered the NRP the Education and Communications portfolios, as well as a deputy environment minister. But the NRP wanted Labor and Social Affairs, earmarked by the Likud for Shas, along with Interior. United Torah Judaism, according to the Likud offer, would get Housing and the chairmanship of the Knesset Finance Committee.

Likud sources say Netanyahu plans to keep many powerful departments under his control, which is sure to displease future ministers. These include control of both TV channels and cable

TV, the Finance Ministry's budget division, and the Israel Lands Administration.

Netanyahu continued to fray the nerves of Likud ministerial aspirants by not giving any hint about what he has in mind. Ariel Sharon is already peeved, and Tsomet's Rafael Eitan also signaled displeasure. Those close to Eitan, including Doron Shmueli, who is representing Tsomet in the coalition negotiations, said that Eitan should get Defense.

"Rafael should certainly be in the leading cabinet trio. It was his decision to withdraw his candidacy for prime minister and join forces with the Likud which paved the way back for David Levy, and which eventually made Netanyahu's victory possible," Shmueli said.

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**Pedestrian killed by truck**  
Shraga Yitzhak, 62, of Rehovot was killed yesterday when a truck hit him as he was crossing at a crosswalk in the city. The driver of the truck, who has a long record of traffic violations, was arrested by police. *Itim*

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A paratrooper camouflages a comrade's face in preparation for an exercise in the North this week simulating combat in southern Lebanon. (Yossi Tzafir/IDF Spokesman)

# Hizbullah fires from inside villages

HIZBULLAH stepped up its attacks on IDF and South Lebanon Army positions in the security zone yesterday, firing at them several times from inside villages, a violation of the agreement that ended Operation Grapes of Wrath.

IDF sources said the army viewed this seriously, and said Hizbullah's intention was probably to see how the new government would react. In one incident, gunmen fired

an anti-tank missile from a position near a school in the village of Bareshit. They also fired from inside houses in the villages of Kabaria and Majdal el-Salim. The IDF and SLA, out of concern that innocent villagers might

be harmed, refrained from returning fire. The Hizbullah fire caused no casualties or damage. In another incident, a powerful roadside bomb was detonated near an IDF patrol, but caused no casualties. (Itm)

# Akaba summit: Spin-doctoring the Netanyahu victory

## COMMENT

JON IMMANUEL

WEDNESDAY'S Akaba summit was an exploratory exercise in deflating the Israeli elections to make their results fit into the jigsaw of the peace process.

Several remarkable statements were made in the summit press conference. King Hussein said he believed the elections were a choice between two persons rather than two policies. PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat said that Binjamin Netanyahu, as Israeli spokesman, facilitated direct Israeli-Palestinian talks at the Madrid conference. Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak said Likud and Labor policies are irrelevant, as history will force the establishment of a Palestinian state "whether we like it or not."

Mubarak, in arranging a series of Arab summits, appears eager to reach a unified Arab position under his leadership to help history along.

He also knows that it is important to push all the right buttons to help Netanyahu feel it's really what he wants, as well. Madrid is one such button and the summit communiqué called on Israel "to continue the peace process which began at the Madrid conference."

Oslo is not mentioned. However, a new conference could embrace Madrid and Oslo. It would resemble Madrid with its wide range of sponsors, Arab

representatives, and perhaps even a joint Palestinian-Jordanian delegation. The Madrid conditions allowing only local Palestinian representatives would be fine, since Arafat and most of the PLO are now the local leaders. Now that Shimon Peres is no longer prime minister, commentators are finding ways to dismiss his centrality to the peace process. "All a weak Labor government could have done would be to maintain the fiction of a peace process," noted Washington-based Palestinian lobbyist James Zogby in Wednesday's *Jordan Times*.

Neither Mubarak nor Netanyahu, for different reasons, much liked phrases like "The New Middle East" nor Oslo's secret talks with the PLO, so both would like to give the process a different name under their auspices. Mubarak emphasized that he - not Peres - first told the Americans in 1986 that they would have to talk to Arafat, when then-premier Peres was pushing the Jordanian option. The Americans opened talks with the PLO in 1988 and Netanyahu will do so now, intimated Mubarak.

Arafat mentioned with a conspiratorial grin that at Madrid, Netanyahu made his own room available for private meetings of the Palestinian and Israeli delegations, without the required Jordanian chaperone. But Arafat knows and fears that Netanyahu is again thinking of three-way meetings with the Jordanians and the Palestinians, as required at Madrid, to work out a three-way management of territory across the Green Line. Hussein addressed this issue by saying he would accept whatever the Palestinians wanted "on their soil." So Arafat, who chafed from Tunis at the enforced Palestinian-Jordanian ties in Madrid, might find closer coordination with Jordan useful now that he is in Gaza, to prevent the Likud from driving a wedge between the Jordanian and PLO positions. As Mubarak moves on to Damascus next week he is aware that Syria, which distrusts everyone, could be the joker, but that's the way it was at Madrid, too. "Can Mubarak really believe there is going to be progress?" asks skeptic Barry Rubin, working on a study of Mubarak's policies at Bar-Ilan University's BESA Center for Strategic Studies. "Then I remember Egyptian officials in 1990 saying it would be better to deal with Likud than Labor. So I am able to say they really believe it this week, but it's hard to believe they'll think this a month from now."

# Reform leader: Pluralism must be maintained

HAIM SHAPIRO

FOR a man under attack, Rabbi Richard Hirsch appears to be fairly calm.

Hirsch, executive director of the World Union for Progressive Judaism, is under attack from the religious parties.

Shas leader MK Aryeh Deri said this week that although the Reform have a right to exist, they have no right to interfere in Israeli affairs.

"To my sorrow, the Reform are powerful abroad and in the US, but we have conducted surveys that show that they don't have more than 18 or 20 congregations in Israel. They have a right to exist, but they constitute a marginal percentage of the population," Deri said in a radio interview.

In coalition negotiations yesterday, the religious parties demanded a return to the status quo on religious issues of four years ago. This would entail enacting legislation to nullify such High Court decisions as that which gave Reform (and Conservative) Jews the right to sit on religious councils, and that which appeared to recognize Reform

conversions performed here.

In reality, Hirsch said yesterday, the gains were not that far-reaching. Despite the court decision, no Reform or Conservative representative sits on a religious council. Hirsch also admitted that the ruling on conversions was not clear cut.

Reform efforts to perform conversions here, he said, were the result of a genuine concern for the hundreds of thousands of immigrants from the former Soviet Union who are not recognized as halachically Jewish. The Orthodox rabbinate had refused to convert them, he said, unless they committed themselves to leading an Orthodox way of life, something which most of them could not do.

Despite a well-publicized Education Ministry decision to accept the Shenhar Commission's report which recommended stressing pluralism in Jewish education in secular schools, the Reform movement has not received the funds promised to subsidize its

programs. One area in which payments were made, he said, was in subsidies for rabbinical students at Hebrew Union College similar to those paid for yeshiva students.

In response to the coalition demands, Hirsch has called on Reform Jews around the world to appeal to Binjamin Netanyahu. He also stresses that there are those in many parties, and not just on the Left, who support retaining an open, pluralistic state.

"I hope the political leaders will recognize that it is not to their advantage to close the door to pluralism and the multiplicity of views," he said.

Hirsch denied that the movement has ever been identified with any political party. He admitted that many individuals in the movement had backed Meretz, and that the Meretz platform was favorable to the movement, but so are the views of Labor, Tsomet and the Third Way, as well as of many members of the Likud.

"We have always had support from the Right as well as the Left," Hirsch said. (Itm)

# 'Natan Yahu - the rotten one'

ISLAMIC and Nasserist opposition newspapers in Egypt have begun printing the last name of prime minister-elect Binjamin Netanyahu as two words - Natan Yahu - which means "This is the rotten one" in Arabic.

The daily *El-Dostor* claims credit for the idea, explaining that *natan* means rotten and *yahu*, this is, to spokeo Arabic.

Several opposition newspapers adopted the idea, although the official press continues to write his name as one word. (Itm)

# Hussein, Clinton to discuss Netanyahu victory

HILLEL KUTTLER WASHINGTON

KING Hussein and President Clinton will meet at the White House next Thursday to discuss the ramifications of Binjamin Netanyahu's election victory last week, a Jordanian embassy official in Washington said yesterday.

The meeting will be the first between Clinton and a Middle East leader since the election. Clinton and Netanyahu are due to meet soon after the new Israeli government is installed.

Hussein, who is coming to the US to receive an honorary degree from New York University, will also meet with Secretary of State Warren Christopher and Congressional leaders during his three-day visit, the official said.

Meanwhile yesterday, Clinton said the US's role in the peace process will not be diminished by the change of Israeli governments and that he will not resort to pressuring Israel.

"Our interests in peace in the Middle East are still great," Clinton told television executives. "Our commitment to the security and well-being of the people of Israel is just as great as it was before that election. It goes beyond party and elections in Israel and ... in the US."

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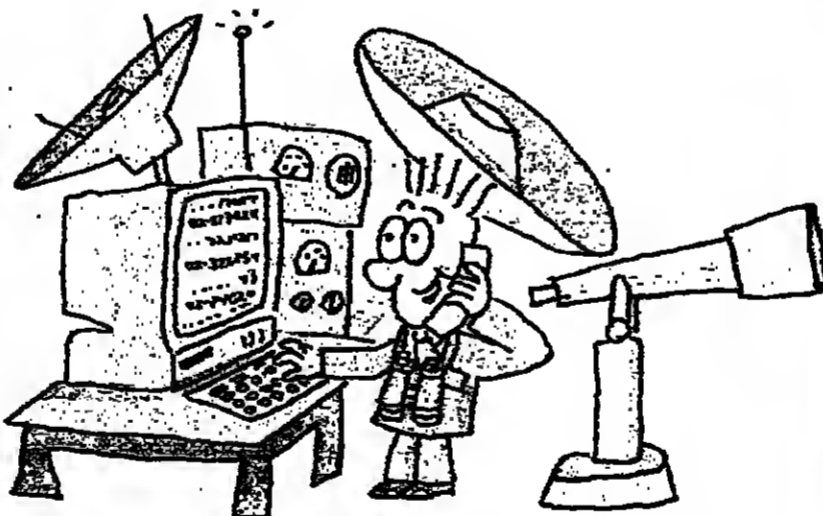
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# The Hebron dilemma

THE Netanyahu government has inherited the unfinished problem of Hebron, and has a very short time in which to decide what to do. The interim agreement with the Palestinians (Oslo B), signed on September 28 1995, includes the commitment to redeploy the IDF from Hebron, up to the boundaries of the Jewish Quarter.

In making his decision, Netanyahu must balance several objectives, beginning with security. Since the 1929 massacre of the ancient Jewish community, Hebron has been a center of radical Palestinian nationalism and Islam, and is now a major Hamas bastion. The threat is not only to Hebron's Jewish community, which will continue to be under IDF protection, but rather to all of Israel. If Hamas is allowed to organize terrorist operations without interference, (as was the case in other cities under autonomy until Arafat was forced to crack down in March 1996), the danger to Israel will grow.

At the same time, the new government is under enormous pressure to honor the commitments made by its predecessor. International law and practice require governments to honor agreements. For Netanyahu, it is

important to demonstrate responsibility and credibility in the international arena in general, and with respect to the United States in particular. Preservation of close relations with Washington is a fundamental element in Israeli security. A crisis in the political process would be exploited by Egypt, and pressure would mount on Jordan, the Gulf States, Tunisia and Morocco to break or freeze their links with Israel.

However, as opposition leader, Netanyahu repeatedly criticized the failure of the Palestinians to honor commitments in the Oslo agreements, and Peres's unwillingness to link withdrawal to Arafat's actions. Violations include the refusal to extradite terrorists, the creation of security forces much larger than specified, police operations outside the areas under autonomy, including Jerusalem, and the failure to disarm Hamas and other armed forces.

Arafat's public declarations of support for terrorists, such as Yihye Ayash ("the Engineer") clearly violated the spirit of the agreements. Netanyahu's security advisor Dore Gold has emphasized the goal of "changing the rules of the game," and withdrawal from Hebron, without a change in Palestinian behavior, would be

### ANALYSIS GERALD M. STEINBERG

seen as a continuation of the discredited policies of Peres.

In comparing these factors, there are three basic options from which to choose, and each has specific costs and benefits. Netanyahu can decide to do nothing, and maintain the IDF's current deployment in Hebron; withdraw fully in the agreed time frame; or order partial withdrawal while linking further action to Palestinian compliance.

The first option, maintaining the status quo and the military presence in Hebron, is advocated by the residents of the city's Jewish Quarter, Kiryat Arba, and the supporters of continued Israeli control over Judea and Samaria. They argue that this is the only means of preventing Hamas from using Hebron to prepare terrorist attacks, and note that the agreement specifies overall Israeli responsibility for security.

Critics of this option note that in the long term, this policy would endanger Israeli security, lead to resumption of the intifada, cause immediate international isolation, and create a sharp political conflict with the United States. Ambassador Martin Indyk has

publicly pressed Netanyahu to withdraw in accordance with the agreement, and a confrontation would endanger US financial and military aid to Israel and Washington's vital political support. In addition, this decision would maintain Israeli control and responsibility for the lives of a large and hostile population.

The second option, full withdrawal, would involve the greatest immediate security risk, but gain full support from the international community and the US. It would demonstrate Netanyahu's commitment to the political process, and create a reservoir of political credit.

However, if this leads to renewed terrorism, the new government will lose its credibility among its supporters, and internal disputes will surface inside the Likud.

To balance the political costs, Netanyahu can seek a commitment from Clinton to tie economic support for the Palestinians to full implementation of the agreements, secure an American agreement to contingency operations in the event of renewed terror, and press Egypt to take actions to improve relations with Israel.

Partial withdrawal, tying continuation of the process to Palestinian compliance, provides

a middle road, indicating the intention to honor the agreement, but linked to reciprocity from Arafat. However, this would still be widely criticized as an abrogation of the terms of Oslo B, and carry significant political costs, as well as limited security benefits. This option would only be viable if it received at least limited support from Washington.

Although renegotiation and revision of the concept behind the Oslo process may be the preferred option, Arafat will not renegotiate what he has already been promised. In the permanent status negotiations, Netanyahu will have the opportunity to place his own proposals on the table, but attempts to rewrite the Hebron agreement seem unrealistic.

Thus, there are no good options open to Netanyahu, and he will be pressured to make a decision in a very short time. The stakes are very high, and the implications of this decision will reverberate for many years. A decision that balances the key political and military factors carefully will provide a solid beginning for the Netanyahu administration.

The writer is a Senior Researcher at the Begin-Sadat Center for Strategic Studies at Bar Ilan University.

# Netanyahu affirms peace commitment to Oman, Qatar

News agencies

PRIME minister-elect Binyamin Netanyahu has told Oman and Qatar, the only two Gulf states to establish trade links with Israel, that he is committed to the peace process.

Netanyahu telephoned Oman's Sultan Qaboos and Qatar's Foreign Minister Hamad bin Jassim bin Jabr al-Thani on Wednesday.

The Qatari news agency Thani told Netanyahu he needs to continue the peace process. Netanyahu said he "will work for the continuation of the peace process".

Qatari officials have said the gas-and-oil rich state would consider slowing down the pace of normalizing ties with Israel following Netanyahu's election.

The Omani news agency said

Netanyahu told Qaboos he is committed "to the Palestinian-Israeli peace agreements, as well as continuing the peace process with the other Arab countries to achieve the desired peace".

It said Netanyahu said "that what was attributed to him about not being committed to the peace process was far from the truth."

Netanyahu's calls to Oman and Qatar were made before today's expected meeting in Saudi Arabia of the leaders of Egypt, Syria, and Saudi Arabia for further discussions on peace.

Oman and Qatar are members in the Gulf Cooperation Council alliance which also groups Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Kuwait, and the United Arab Emirates.

Qaboos is expected to visit Saudi Arabia for talks with the King Fahd on tomorrow. He will later travel to Egypt to meet President Hosni Mubarak.

Oman and Qatar are the only Gulf states to have received Prime Minister Shimon Peres in April. They agreed to exchange trade missions, but stayed clear from full diplomatic relations.

The GCC countries say they will only consider establishing diplomatic ties with Israel once a just and comprehensive peace is reached, including on the Syrian and Lebanese tracks.

## Peace Now affiliate: Evict Jews from Silwan

BILL HUTMAN

THE Jewish families living in the east Jerusalem neighborhood of Silwan should be evicted, members of the Peace Now-affiliated Ir Shalem group said yesterday, during a tour of the newest Arab home purchased and occupied by a settlement group in the neighborhood.

"The government must stop armed settlers from moving into Silwan," said Ir Shalem spokesman Moshe Raz. "Their entrance into the village is just another step towards the Hebronization of Jerusalem," Raz said.

Just after the initial election results showing Binyamin Netanyahu was the winner were in last week, the Elad settlement group moved a Jewish family into the City of David section of Silwan for the first time since the group first entered the village over four years ago.

The group plans to move additional families into other homes it has purchased in the Arab neighborhood.

"This is the beginning of a bad thing for both the Jewish and Arab residents of Jerusalem," Raz said.

## Syria dismisses US reports of explosions

DUBAI (Reuters) - Syrian Information Minister Mohamad Salman was quoted yesterday as saying that US reports of several explosions in Syria over the past month were "silly and baseless."

"Any visitor to Syria can see the state of stability that the country enjoys," the London-based Arabic-language *Asharq al-Awsat* newspaper quoted the minister as telling it.

He said a State Department statement on the blasts was "an attempt to divert world attention from what is happening in Israel especially regarding forming the government and the symbols of bigotry and hatred for the Arab people (in the government)."

He was referring to the election of Binyamin Netanyahu which led to Arab concerns he might be less committed to the peace process than the outgoing government.

The State Department said on Tuesday it had confirmed reports of several explosions in Syria over the past month and advised American citizens in the country to review their security practices.

It said the explosions were acts of violence but were not on a major scale. A message sent to the small American community in Syria by the US Embassy Sunday, and made public by the State Department in Washington, said it was not clear who was behind the blasts.

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Handwritten text in a box: אברהם יצחק

# Outgoing Mossad chief: Assad may not want peace

**OUTGOING** Mossad chief Shabtai Shavit, acknowledging a dispute with IDF intelligence, says he is not convinced that Syria is ready for peace with Israel. In an interview broadcast yesterday on Israel Radio, Shavit said "I am realistic. The meaning is we have to relate to the process with caution and wisdom and not get swept up by it."

**STEVE RODAN**

Syria significant concessions in Damascus's demand for the Golan Heights. "We have to test very carefully and basically the real intentions of President Assad," Shavit said. "I think the assessments of a change in direction in strategy were quite premature and we still have to look for indicators, signs, and evidence of a real will by President Assad." Sources close to Shavit recalled that for several years, the taciturn Mossad chief would argue with Shimon Peres over Assad's policy. Shavit and his colleagues in the Mossad's research department asserted that the Syrian president was using the peace talks to win US support and

Western economic aid, without taking the steps that would achieve peace with Israel. As Shavit saw it, Assad felt a peace treaty with Israel, particularly one that would include open borders, would threaten his regime, sources close to him said. The Mossad view was adopted by Peres's deputy, Minister Yossi Beilin. After failing to win Syrian approval for intensive talks earlier this year, Peres eventually agreed as well, diplomatic sources said. For his part, Shavit suggested that Assad's participation in the peace process remains tactical. "I am still not altogether convinced that he made the required turn for sincere peace that will include all the attributes of normalization," he said.



President Ezer Weizman and his wife, Reuma, meet with Nepalese princesses Jayanti Shah (second from right) and Helen Shah at Beit Hanassi yesterday. (Efraim Kishon)

# Four youths jailed for beating man over scooter

**FOUR** youths who beat a man with a club, causing him severe brain damage, because they thought he stole a motor scooter from one of them, were sentenced yesterday to up to four years in prison.

The injured man is hospitalized at Beit Loewenstein, where he is on a respirator and fed through tubes, with little or no chance of recovery. Judge Natan Amit characterized the crime as one step below manslaughter.

All four were convicted by the Tel Aviv District Court of conspiring to commit a crime, while two were also convicted of aggravated assault. One of the four was sentenced to four years in jail and 18 months' probation, and had his driver's license revoked for 10 years. Another was sentenced to 2½ years in jail and 18 months' probation, while the other two received 18 months' jail and public service.

Amit said that in his years on the bench, "I have never encountered such cruel and despicable behavior as in this case." (Itim)

# Expert: Larger apartments would lead to larger families

**ESTHER HECHT**

**ISRAELI** women have very clear ideas about the number of children they want and how they should be spaced, according to an expert on demography. "The Israeli woman wants a family; two children are the minimum and she will do anything to have those children," Ilana Ziegler, incoming director of the Israeli Family Planning Association, said yesterday. "But after she has those two, especially a secular woman will want to wait about four years before having more. If she has an abortion before the third child is born, it doesn't mean she doesn't want that child, but that she wants to have it later," she said. Thus, any attempt to further curtail legal abortions could backfire, Ziegler said. A woman who has a pregnancy that is unwanted - for whatever reason - will do almost anything to have an abortion, and complications from an illegal abortion might prevent a woman from having another child, she said. Ziegler's findings result from research she conducted for her doctorate in demographics for

the Hebrew University. Her focus was what she calls "the critical child" - the first pregnancy in which a woman has doubts about carrying it to term. Her subjects were 1,751 women, representing all married Jewish women between the ages of 22 and 39. According to Ziegler, her research team invested tremendous effort to locate the women and persuade reluctant ones (especially in the haredi community) to participate in the study, so as to get the most accurate response possible. "Even in the religious community, even among some haredim, there is an attempt to control the size of the family," Ziegler said. "Religious women say they want to have as many children as God gives them. But the number they actually have corresponds very closely to the number the woman believes she can bring up in her apartment." The importance of living space was one of the most surprising findings of the study, she said. "Across all backgrounds, socioeconomic levels, religious or sec-

ular, many women said they want more children than they can bring up in their apartments. Increasing the apartment size would be the greatest incentive to having more children." Most pregnancies in this country are wanted: The absolute number of annual abortions, both legal and illegal, has not risen as the population has grown; it has even declined slightly in the past 15 years. About 16,000 legal abortions are performed annually. The number of illegal abortions each year, 4,000 to 6,000, was calculated by Dr. Eitan Sabatello, the demographer responsible for all family statistics at the Central Bureau of Statistics, who died a few months ago. Using a formula for calculating the number of abortions which she developed for her MA thesis, Ziegler found that attempts in Eastern European countries to increase the birth rate by outlawing abortions turned out to be an abysmal failure. "The birth rate did not change one iota," she said. Ziegler recently completed a report on fertility for the Labor and Social Affairs Ministry's Demographic Center.

# New drug tracked down to save man's life

**JUDY SIEGEL**

**A TENACIOUS** wife, a learned brother-in-law, alert doctors, and dedicated customs workers helped save the life of a Jerusalem man by obtaining an effective new drug whose import had been approved by the Health Ministry only a few days ago. Dr. Robert Werman, 67, who teaches nephrology at the Hebrew University, was admitted to Bikur Holim Hospital two weeks ago with serious chest pains. He has a history of heart disease and previously underwent open-heart surgery. Doctors performed a diagnostic catheterization and found that some of the bypass vessels that had been implanted in his heart were completely blocked and one of the coronary arteries had a clot whose location made balloon therapy very risky.

Cardiologists Prof. Shlomo Stern, Prof. Yeshayahu Benhorin, and Dr. Shmuel Banai were aware of a US drug meant for exactly such extreme situations, but they knew it had been approved only very recently and doubted it could be brought in fast enough to help. Werman's wife Golda called her brother, an internist at Mt. Sinai Hospital in New York, who said it was vital that the drug - Eli Lilly's ReoPro - be used. Golda contacted Ruo Armoni, a local representative of Eli Lilly, who made many calls to try to locate the ReoPro shipment. They finally located it in a customs warehouse, where it had arrived the same day. It was found and rushed to Bikur Holim.

Werman, who is now feeling well and due to be discharged today, said the drug reduced the fatality rate in cases like his from 20% to 4%, and the re-blockage rate from 35% to 5%. He expressed his gratitude to all who joined forces in the complex effort to get the drug.

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# Army arrests five suspected members of terror groups

**THE IDF** arrested five people on Wednesday suspected of either belonging to or aiding terror groups. One was arrested in A-Ram, in the Ramallah District, two in Beit Avah, and two in Dzhahriya, in the Hebron District. Jerusalem Post Staff

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אתר דעת

OPINION

# New Likud, same old realities

ABBA EBAN

CONSENSUS means that everyone says collectively what no one believes individually. It would therefore be prudent to avoid predicting Israel's policies by reference to election rhetoric alone.

The 1996 election was proclaimed throughout the world as the most crucial in our nation's history. But that judgment was based on the assumption that Israel faces a new diversity of options, ranging from accelerated fulfillment of the Rabin-Peres 1993 peace process to the renewal of Israeli militancy through the denunciation of the Oslo agreements and a repudiation of the PLO-Israeli accords.

I watched the elections carefully, and my own impressions lead me to conclude that Prime Minister-elect Benjamin Netanyahu's options are in fact more restricted than those of any of his predecessors.

First, he is constrained by the contractual principle which works for continuity. Second, he faces the reality that the peace process has always been more popular in Israel than any alternative policy.

A third factor is that the new prime minister's style and pragmatic demeanor are sharply discordant with the rigorous dogmatism and territorial passions of his Orthodox constituents.

Fourth, the idea of withdrawing from the silver of Hebron in which a few hundred Jewish zealots live in an abrasive relationship with

over 120,000 passionate Moslems is specifically required by the Oslo agreement. But Netanyahu's enthusiasm for facing the Hebron issue seems to lie between the cold and tepid water taps.

Finally, Netanyahu is not insensitive to the joys of international summity. There is no reason why he should be. No wonder that he seems reluctant to begin his stewardship by alienating the US, the European Union, and the North African and Gulf Arab states

## A week after the 'crucial' election Israeli opinion is still rooted nostalgically in the Oslo experience

whom Shimon Peres adroitly added to the candidates for his "New Middle East."

A week after the "crucial" election, Israeli opinion is still rooted nostalgically in the Oslo experience.

The election was theoretically fought on the issue of "individual security," but if Likud leaders knew of a prescription for preventing young Moslem fanatics from exploding themselves and innocent travelers on buses, they would have patriotically shared their secret with Rabin and Peres long ago.

Might it be that no such panacea exists?

By the time these lines see the public light, the New Likud may have taken measures in greater harmony with the hard-fisted traditions of Ariel Sharon and Rafael Eitan, but their demeanor at this writing finds them in a mood of low expectation. They seem to be a luxury the Netanyahu administration cannot afford.

The popular sport of Israeli newspapermen at this moment is speculation about the date of Netanyahu's inevitable handshake with Yasser Arafat. When this happens, Yitzhak Rabin, like Hamlet's restless ghost, will allow his spirit to rest and his face to break into something that could look like an

ironic smile.

The hard truth is that the recent past does not run away; the new slate is not all that free of the old inscriptions.

This truth was expounded on Israeli TV this week by Avraham Shohat, Israel's Pickwickian finance minister (a picky that more Americans never encountered his jovial pungency).

In clearing his papers prematurely from his desk in the Finance Ministry, Shohat reflected on the legacy that Rabin and Peres are bequeathing to their successors.

The heritage includes a bustling economy with Pacific Rim potential, a GNP rating that would delight any major industrial power, and a wider breach than Israel has ever known in the Great Wall of Arab and Moslem hostility. There is also a series of commercial commitments that may still carry the area to an unexpected renewal of its vitality.

Oslo is a much more stubborn reality than anything yet put in its place. Netanyahu's problem is that this writing finds them in a mood of low expectation. They seem to be a luxury the Netanyahu administration cannot afford.

The popular sport of Israeli newspapermen at this moment is speculation about the date of Netanyahu's inevitable handshake with Yasser Arafat. When this happens, Yitzhak Rabin, like Hamlet's restless ghost, will allow his spirit to rest and his face to break into something that could look like an

The writer was Israel's foreign minister.



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# About rearranging priorities

ESTHER WACHSMAN

WE pride ourselves on living in a democracy.

Many of us went to sleep on election night disappointed or relieved, and woke up to the exact opposite emotion.

Yet, most citizens in Israel, depressed or elated, accepted the verdict dictated by the democratic process.

It was the media that had a great deal of difficulty accepting results that were not to their liking.

I read an editorial by a highly respected journalist in which the newly-elected government was urged to keep in mind that half the population holds views and ideologies diametrically opposed to those of the newly elected majority.

This smacks of sour grapes.

Over the last four years, the government ruled with a very slight majority. Yet that did not prevent it from treating half the population like second-class citizens — with contempt, arrogance, scorn and delegitimation.

The prime minister — both the late Yitzhak Rabin and Shimon Peres — made very little attempt to reach out to those estranged citizens, and even less effort to function as prime minister of all the people.

The words that came out of that esteemed office were in the spirit of "As long as I have a majority of one, I am entitled to do whatever I want; the fact that many of you feel estranged is entirely your problem."

This blind, self-serving righteousness didn't sit well with half the people of Israel.

I was present at a live program of *Nightline* aired in Jerusalem

shortly after the Rabin assassination; in which Haim Ramon was on the panel. At one point, Ramon turned to representatives of the right on the panel and said: "This is a democracy, and if you don't come around to our way of thinking and join us, we will crush you."

There was a collective gasp from the audience. As for moderator Ted Koppel, he couldn't believe his ears: He asked Ramon if he was aware of the discrepancy between democracy and the

close Yeshivot Heider, Bar-Ilan University was termed a hotbed of extreme fanaticism.

Hysteria was at its height, the unity and solidarity of the Jewish people in Zion at its ebb. Those in power did not explore the ways of reconciliation.

THAT IS what boomeranged. Peres probably expected to float into power on a sympathy vote.

How can we explain the phenomenon of 55% of the Jewish vote going against him? There are

ments?

The (Meretz-controlled) Education Ministry exhibited blatant hypocrisy when it called for changing our national anthem and removing the words "Judaism" and "Zionism" from the platform of all the youth movements because they discriminate against Arabs, and then denouncing the fact that many of the newly-elected Knesset members aren't "Zionists," and did not serve in the army.

The Arab vote was wooed intensively, despite the fact that the Arabs are not Zionists and do not serve in the army.

The platform of the extreme left — on whose coattails the Labor government rode — was to change the "Jewish state" to the "state of all its citizens." But the majority of our people voted no.

For too long priorities have been distorted. Until we make peace with our brothers, until we can fulfill the commandment of loving them, we cannot possibly hope to make peace with our enemies.

The advice that Prime Minister Peres's historic mission is to aim for reconciliation with the Palestinians and not with the religious population" (Orit Shohat in a *Ha'aretz* editorial) has proved counterproductive.

We all yearn for peace, but not at the expense of destroying what Ben-Gurion called the "Jewish homeland in the Land of Israel."

The writer is a high school teacher. Her son Nachshon was killed by Hamas terrorists in 1994.

## Sour grapes make an unpalatable meal. It is time for brothers to seek peace with each other.

several possible answers.

The first is Meretz. Those loyal supporters of Peres were, in the opinion of many who favored the peace process, his greatest saboteurs.

The issue was not a division between the enlightened, secular population who wanted peace and the primitive, religious right-wing who were opposed.

Meretz leader Yossi Sarid was directly responsible for the messages of hatred and pure venom that emanated from his platform, in which religious Jews were portrayed as frightening, "black" masses who "must be stopped," as we saw in their TV propaganda.

Can you imagine the reaction had there been a televised segment showing Arabs in their mosques or markets, accompanied by an airing of similar senti-

# Manipulation of minds

DAVID NEWMAN

AS we all take a rest from the excitement of the close election results, one group of people has become busier than ever.

The cleanup crews of the local authorities have been returning our streets, intersections and public billboards to some semblance of neatness. It will take a long time before all signs of the campaign are totally removed from our walls and public places.

Driving along the highways of Israel in the period leading up to the elections, one couldn't help but be taken with the vast quantities of posters and stickers. True, it was often hard to differentiate between the colors — and messages — of the two major parties, but this didn't deter the campaign managers from investing huge sums of public money in this highly visual form of persuasion.

Much of the physical work involved was carried out by children, many of whom took great delight in their ability to put up their posters, remove the opposition's, distribute stickers and shout slogans.

For many, it was a form of public behavior forbidden during the rest of the year. When else, after all, can you deface public buildings, affix stickers secretly on parked cars and simply have a good shouting match with friends/rivals without being told to go and clean up the mess or to quiet down?

But the use of children, by all political parties from Meretz to Mofedet, to distribute electoral material is not a game. It is a disturbing phenomenon — a kind of political pedophilia — whose legitimacy needs to be examined.

In the first place, the children are placed in a situation of physical danger. They stand at major intersections, at entrances to towns and settlements, often rushing between cars and trucks to offer drivers stickers. Traffic lights change and traffic starts moving with these children stuck in the middle of the highway.

Many drivers are exasperated by the multitude of youngsters at each and every intersection — especially when the political message on sale goes contrary to their own preferences — and pump the accelerator with little care for danger.

There is also a moral problem here. These children are all still in full-time education. They have not yet reached the age of franchise.

Some would argue that this is a way of making the children politically aware — but this is not the objective of the political parties who recruit them. The parties are seeking a cheap, in some cases free, reservoir of people who will do the physical, black work that the party leaders and candidates would never do — except, of course, in those situations where the media have been given prior notice.

When the children are no more than eight- or nine-year-old political innocents, their use is even more obnoxious. They regurgitate slogans and names which have little meaning for them. They are socialized into believing that politics is about stickers and slogans, about out-

## Using children in the election game is political pedophilia pure and simple

shouting the opposition, about laying claim to the intersection, shop entrance or electric pylon before your rival can get there.

THE political exploitation of children is particularly disturbing among the national religious youth. Many of the State Religious schools and yeshivot have become recruiting grounds for the mass mobilization of youth, often during school time, as a means of promoting political messages.

The heavier Likud presence in many public spaces was a result of the fact that the party was able to make use of the most regimented and committed group of volunteers, namely national religious youth.

Having opted for the Netanyahu-National Religious Party ticket, the religious school-children and yeshiva students were successfully recruited to the cause. Wherever there were Netanyahu stickers and posters, there were Kippot. This was a volunteer army to which the Labor Party had no access.

We want our children to be politically aware and sensitive. We want them to feel involved and grow into responsible and caring citizens. But we cannot achieve this by manipulating them for our adult political objectives. That only teaches them to become partisan, non-thinking young adults.

Political parties from across the spectrum should consider legislating laws forbidding the future use of children in this way.

The writer is a senior faculty member and director of the Humphrey Institute for Social Research at Ben-Gurion University.

# Sheinkin people & the man in the street

YOSEF LAPID

WHEN stage director Eldad Ziv was asked on TV what he would do if the Likud won the elections, he said, "I'll buy a sweater." Asked why, he explained, "Because it's cold in Paris."

I received a phone call in the same vein last Friday, after it became clear that Bibi Netanyahu would win the election for prime minister. "So — are you packing?" asked my journalist friend.

Later in the day at the newspaper stand an artist who lives in my neighborhood asked me, "Where shall we go? Australia? New Zealand?" And he chuckled intently.

This is the reaction of the Sheinkin

brigade, of the round-spectacle band, the Bobemans, the academics, the journalists, the Dodi Zuckers of this world. Someone has stolen their country and they're panicky and offended. The gates of paradise have shut in their faces. It's the nightmare of '77 all over again. Peace is in danger. Democracy has let them down.

I'm not convinced that the Bibi victory is what the country needed. But I get a kick out of seeing the frustration on the faces of my left-wing friends, who are acting like spoiled children whose toys have been flattened.

What an ungrateful country Israel is. It just doesn't appreciate their exclusive contribution to our quality of life. What are we others worth without them? What if we look like once they've left this poor, hopeless, silly country?

The kings of the swamp express their attitude toward the common people in tones of weary indignation: What can you expect from a taxi driver, black-hat, or Likud politician?

And if there is a professor somewhere around with right-wing views, you can forget about him —

he's crazy, and his academic work isn't worth wiping oneself with.

The conflict between the left-wing intelligentsia and democracy has raised its head again. It does that every time the man in the street votes for what he wants, instead of what he ought to want.

The author is an editorial writer for Ma'ariv.

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# FOCUS

## Path to Netanyahu



dedication of Yoni Square to the memory of brother and son of their sons as Yoni the hero, and Bibi the statesman. (Isaac Harari)

1978 in the US shortly after Bibi married Micky, an Israeli studying for a doctorate at Brandeis University. Bibi had returned to the US to study when he left the IDF after six years of service. He earned his BA and MA at MIT in architecture and business administration.

His first marriage ended when his wife discovered his affair with English-born Fleur Cates. He returned to Israel with Cates, whom he married in 1981 after she had converted. They were divorced in 1988. The reason is not clear. Some say it was infidelity; some, incompatibility; and some imply he thought she might be a liability with the wrong image at a time his career was taking off.

In 1991, he met and married Sara, nine years his junior, when she was an airline stewardess and psychology student. Their first son was born shortly afterwards.

During the pre-election television debate, Netanyahu admitted that the Bibigate affair in 1993 had been a mistake which had hurt his family. Among the prominent items in his office at the Knesset, now off-limits to the press, are books, including some of his own works, and a picture of Sara and the two boys. Some of the first post-election coverage was of the Netanyahus picking up their son from kindergarten.

NETANYAHU'S career really got underway in 1982 when Arens was appointed ambassador to Washington and asked him to be his deputy. Facing hostility over the Lebanese War, Netanyahu quickly learned about the power of a good television interview.

The biographical information on Netanyahu in the Knesset's "Who's Who" recalls that he was a member of the first delegation for strategic agreement talks with the US in 1983.

In 1984 he made a career leap and was appointed Israel's ambassador to the UN. He was to serve in the position for four years, during which he helped expose the Nazi past of Kurt Waldheim; open the UN archives on Nazi war crimes; repeal the Zionism-is-racism ruling; and push for emigration rights for Soviet Jewry. (Natan Sharansky became a very close friend of Netanyahu's after he finally made it to Israel.)

These were the years he appeared so often on television he earned the nicknames "Ted Netanyahu" and "Bibi Koppel" and seemed part of the set at CNN.

(Continued on Page 10)

was drafted in 1967 and fought in the Six Day War. His parents were still in the US when in 1972 Bibi was wounded during the rescue of the hijacked Sabena plane. They were still there when Yoni was killed during the rescue of the Air France plane six years later.

Bibi's army comrades recall with pride the 1968 night raid on Beirut airport in which Bibi participated in the blowing up of 13 planes on the ground. Erez Altschuler, who served with Bibi, describes him as dedicated to his family and country and a courageous army officer.

Bibi reached the rank of captain, not much compared to many of the MKs on his own list but, as Likud activists were quick to point out, much higher than Peres, who did not serve in the IDF.

FACING political opponents that included charismatic former chief-of-staff Ehud Barak, a former commander of Netanyahu's, he wisely did not stress his own

military background.

Stranger to understand, however, were his constant references to his third wife, Sara, and two sons, Yair and Avner, particularly since the whole country recalls the Bibigate affair of 1993. Two months before the Likud leadership elections, he faced to confess on prime-time television to having had an affair (with political image consultant Ruth Bar) and implied that David Levy supporters were blackmailing him with videotaped evidence unless he step down from the race.

It was all "à la Clinton." But like the US president he survived it and at his US-style victory speech this week, Sara was at his side on the platform, not in the front row. He also talked of his sons at the event at the Jerusalem International Convention Center but, typically, did not mention his daughter Noa, from his first marriage, who had asked him to keep her out of the election campaign. Noa Netanyahu was born in

...s were reviled, or at elined. There was no way family to become part of ablishment. And in 1962, hole family moved back to US, where Benzion Netanyahu had accepted an acad- position. The move would give the young Binyamin of s chance to be "a Likud prince," ke his political rivals Dan Meridor, Ehud Olmert and Ze'ev Benny) Begin. Bibi Netanyahu has told friends he cried when he left Israel and hushed back every year for the long summer vacation. In a recent interview in Vanity Fair he said he liked the openmindedness of the JS, but not its "rootlessness" and the "lack of sense of belonging" among Jews.

Although undeniably close, his parents remained in the US while all three sons served simultane-ously in an elite IDF unit. Bibi

Cla, the daughter of a Lithuanian-born businessman, in 1944. She too had lived in Eretz Yisrael and the US and she had studied in London.

mother and a historian father who feels he lost his place in history books.

His father, Benzion, 86, was a Revisionist and a historian whose life work is a huge study on the persecution of the Jewish converts in the Spanish Inquisition, *The*

...ens is also quick to note Netanyahu's academic achieve-ments.

"He studied at a top US univer- sity [the Massachusetts Institute of Technology]. I don't believe he would have been accepted, gradu- ated and got his master's degree if he wasn't an intelligent person.

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# US keeps calm in face of change

**E**ARLY this week, a senior administration official pondered a question on Premier-Elect Benjamin Netanyahu's likely reception by Washington, when he hit on just the right analogy.

He recalled an editorial cartoon that was published in *The Washington Post* by its Pulitzer Prize-winner Herblock. The cartoon appeared on November 7, 1968, following Richard Nixon's election as president, and it depicted Herblock's own desk containing a sketch of a barber shop with a sign reading, "This shop gives to every new President of the United States a free shave."

Like the cartoonist, he said, the Clinton administration is willing to give Netanyahu a "free shave."

The grace period will last, the official said, at least "until he has his government in place and states his positions" on settlements, redeploying from Hebron, dealing with Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat and Syrian President Hafez Assad, and on whether to close the Orient House.

"Then we'll judge," he said. In the week since Netanyahu's election, the administration has studiously avoided fanning the flames of international concern over the Likud leader, instead allowing him abundant breathing room as he takes office.

FROM PRESIDENT Clinton to Secretary of State Warren Christopher, the US took the offensive. They called and wrote Arab leaders urging them not to prejudice Netanyahu or spew gloom-and-doom before he assumes office.

The Arab world's public restraint is evidence of their "rationality" and "maturity," the official said.

In short, says former ambassador to Israel Samuel Lewis,

## Washington is giving Netanyahu a chance to set up shop and is helping ease fraying Arab nerves, Hillel Kuttler reports

we are now beginning a "love-fest."

The key word apparently is "reassurance." As the US calmed the Arabs, so too did Netanyahu's conciliatory words in his first public address last Sunday vindicate the American initiative.

Said a second administration official: "Our desire is to pursue the peace process, and he's made it clear in everything he's said that he's committed to the peace process."

"He's clearly sent conciliatory signals to the outside and inside. The fact that he's called [Jordan's King Hussein and Egyptian] President Mubarak, established contact with [the PLO's] Ahn Mazen, indicates he's quite serious about following up...."

"It's helpful because it reinforces what we're saying to the Arabs, that their anxiety at this time is exaggerated and misplaced."

"Bibi said he wanted to make peace, he accepted Oslo," the second official said. "He raised questions, but he didn't run against peace. Obviously, [the election] was not a referendum on peace."

LEWIS, WHO served in Tel

Aviv when the Likud first took power in 1977, said, "This is exactly what [then-premier Menachem] Begin did. He tried to reassure everyone he wasn't a warmonger."

The administration is placing a lot of weight on Netanyahu's upcoming visit to Washington, which should occur soon after he takes office this month. The US peace team wants to hear directly from Netanyahu his strategy for proceeding in peace talks with the Palestinians and Syria, and in Israel's evolving relations with other Middle East countries.

They are confident that despite his campaign rhetoric, Netanyahu appreciates the gains Israel has made in the five years since he served as the government's spokesman at the dawn of the Madrid process.

"There are a lot of realities that are inherited and a lot of realities he'll want to nurture," the second official said, "whether the peace treaties or the two economic summits, the beginning of diplomatic relations with Morocco, Tunisia, Oman and Qatar. There's a whole array of things he's inheriting."

Even though they dealt with Netanyahu when he served as deputy foreign minister, he enters the Prime Minister's Office as something of an unknown leader, the officials said.

IN THE past year, while leading the opposition, Netanyahu met here with National Security Adviser Anthony Lake, with Vice President Albert Gore during his visit to Israel in January, and with President Clinton following Yitzhak Rabin's funeral last November and two months ago after the Shamir-Sheikh summit. Clinton and Netanyahu also met before the former took office in 1993.

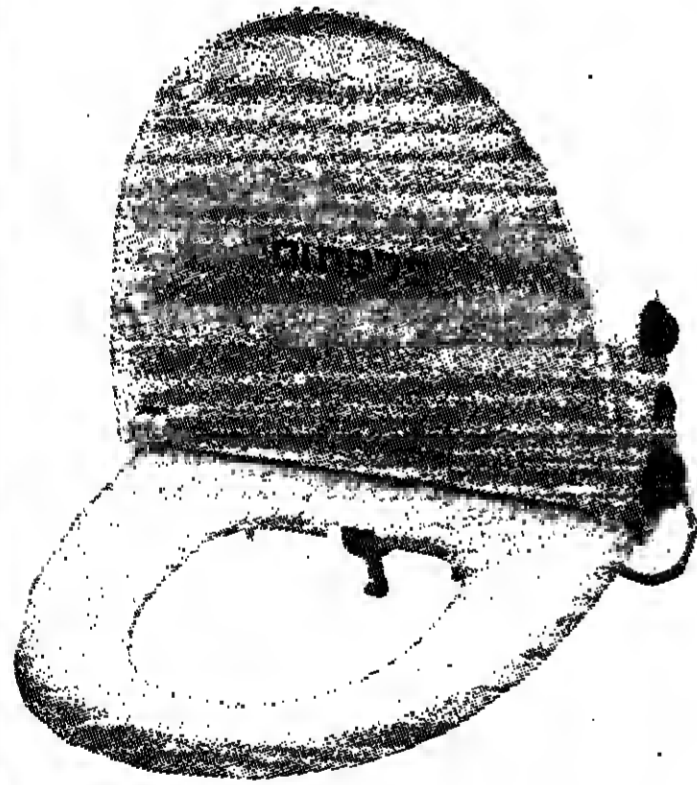


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אביבי 1993

### (Continued from Page 9) GUIDE

His greatest appearance, however, was during the Gulf war when he donned a gas mask and continued an interview in the middle of a Scud missile attack.

His television appeal is easy to understand. There is truth to the claims he talks in sound bites and he is equally comfortable talking in either Hebrew or English. (He also knows French.)

By 1986 his success was hard to ignore and political commentator Hanan Crystal predicted Bibi would be pitted against Ehud Barak in 1996. He entered the Knesset in 1988 and served as deputy foreign minister under Aronson. He later moved to a similar position in the prime minister's office after then-foreign minister David Levy grew jealous of his popularity during the Madrid Peace Conference in 1991.

**HIS SUCCESS IN** taking over the Likud leadership in 1993 was all the more remarkable given that he was running against Levy and Ze'ev Begin.

Motti Morell, who has known Netanyahu 16 years and directed his electoral advertising campaign, says Bibi's conquest of the Likud leadership was typical. "He's made out of different

material [from] other Israeli politicians. From the beginning he didn't run along the regular route but overtook everyone on the ladder to reach the top," Morell says. "He knows exactly what he wants and he goes straight there."

Morell says Netanyahu's image stems from his lack of press support and the fact he doesn't like giving interviews.

"Everyone forgets that until he took over the Likud he was the media's darling," Morell notes. "But from that point, the Left saw what they were dealing with and marked him and the press began to attack. There were plenty from both the Left and within the Likud who were willing to give the media material to work with and the result was a character assassination."

Despite the bad press, Netanyahu has been credited with pulling the party out of debt after electoral defeat in 1992, giving it a constitution, and somehow uniting it again.

His success seems to come down to his peculiar singlemindedness. Shortly after gaining leadership, Netanyahu seemed doomed to remain a wannabe when the Oslo accords were

signed and Yitzhak Rabin became adored by the Western world. Just as Netanyahu started fighting back, the assassin's bullets that killed Rabin seemed to blast away any chance of Netanyahu leaving the opposition. And when Leah Rabin said she found it easier to shake Yasser Arafat's hand than Netanyahu's, his popularity reached such a low that many were scared to admit supporting him.

His comeback can be attributed to many factors: the wave of terror drove many to vote Netanyahu as a vote against Peres and Oslo; the Likud's campaign, aimed at everyday people and stressing a safe peace and an undivided Jerusalem, also played a role. But perhaps most of all it was Netanyahu's style of focusing on the target and not being distracted by the need to respond to attacks on him. His motto could be "Straight from A to Bibi." He did not get tricked into answering Labor's slogan "Bibi isn't suitable." He stayed serious and avoided providing more ammunition for the "Bibi is a lightweight" campaign.

His seriousness seems an inseparable part of him now. He has grown physically heavier as he became more of a political heavyweight. The people who say he won because he looks good on television are referring to an earlier model. He is clearly aware of the responsibility he has taken on.

Although he is quick-witted and has sharp repartee and one-liners, he seems wary of really letting himself go and having a good laugh at either himself or others. "He does have a sense of humor but he shows restraint," Arens says. "But there's nothing wrong with that. And just wait. You'll see him laugh."

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# Netanyahu now becomes the leader

PM-elect Binyamin Netanyahu will have to navigate between his preferred strategy and regional constraints, David Makovsky writes

In such issues as Hebron and Orient House. Already, there are voices in the Likud hinting that compromises can be made on these sticky issues, for instance in early partial redeployment in Hebron or, in the case of Orient House, lowering the site's political profile (instead of closing it down) by urging foreign ministers not to visit.

The broader issue is maintaining a genuine relationship with the PA, and already Netanyahu has authorized Gold to notify top PA official Mahmoud Abbas about a mechanism for dialogue. Each side can bring a laundry list of items of non-adherence to the Oslo 2 accords, it will have to boil down to three key issues: terror, economics, and land.

Terror. During the election campaign, Netanyahu said he did not want to "subcontract" Israeli security to the PA. But, if the PA does not maintain what GSS chief Ami Ayalon indicates is its excellent current efforts against Hamas, Netanyahu could be faced with pressure from within to stage retaliatory raids against Hamas. This could lead to what hardly anybody wants: Israel's reoccupation of Gaza. Therefore Netanyahu and Arafat are in the same boat, and it is just a matter of time before the two meet to discuss how Hamas threatens their mutual interests including Arafat's own regime.

Economics. Netanyahu reiterated in the election campaign the need for Israel to bolster its free-market economy. Economic freedom is something that Palestinians could find refreshing after being stifled by Israeli economic restrictions. A salutary economic program could bolster the prospects of jobs inside the territories, which would make the Palestinians less reliant on jobs inside Israel, and even lower security risks for Israelis.

Land. "Reciprocity" is a watchword of the new Netanyahu government. Both sides can carve out zones of influence in the territories with an eye on a

final deal. The Palestinians want to know that even before the final-status deadline of May 1999, there will be three mini-redeployments - as scheduled in the Oslo 2 accords - over the next 18 months. The PA controls the urban areas, which form 3 percent of the territories. The Palestinians want to know that these Zone A areas can be expanded.

While opposing statehood for the Palestinians, Netanyahu differs from Sharon in that he does not oppose territorial contiguity for the Palestinians, believing that neither Israelis nor Palestinians can force the other into "tiny islands." Candidate Netanyahu made it clear that the concept of Zone B areas of shared authority is too messy and should remain on the shelf until a final-status arrangement.

The main quid pro quo Netanyahu wants from the PA will not be explicit, but rather a compromise achieved by a wink and a nod: settlement expansion in designated areas, somewhat along the lines publicly suggested by Rabin in the Oslo 2 Knesset debate last year, where settlements already exist and in specific blocs which it is clear that Israel will keep in any final deal.

## EGYPT

One of the key questions facing Netanyahu will be whether Egypt is a favorable or unfavorable force in the region. No Arab country has felt as threatened by Israeli regional gains since the Oslo accords. Egypt's leadership feels threatened by an Israel that is militarily, technologically, and economically stronger than its neighbors.

The school of thought most associated with Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Mousa is: Return Israel to its "natural proportions" and mount international pressure to deprive it of its reputed nuclear arsenal. While this has not been successful, one cannot preclude the possibility that

Egypt will join Syria - now disappointed that its territorial demands won't be met by Netanyahu - in creating a broader regional front to isolate Israel.

Netanyahu may do a couple of things to stave off this prospect. First, he could seek to placate Egypt's eternal quest for a regional role by making gestures that would reinforce Egyptian leadership, as President Bill Clinton did by inviting President Hosni Mubarak to the anti-terrorism conference in Sharm el-Sheikh. The fact that Mubarak invited Netanyahu to Cairo (in contrast to the way he shunned his Likud predecessor Yitzhak Shamir) demonstrates that Cairo realizes that the region has changed a lot since Oslo.

Second, Netanyahu may urge the US to make it clear to Cairo that any regional mischief could have deleterious effects on the US's \$2.1 billion in annual aid to Egypt. Congress wants to take another chunk out of foreign aid this year, and aid to Israel and Egypt sticks out like a sore thumb. Egypt relies on the clout of the pro-Israel lobby to oppose cuts, and Netanyahu can make it clear that the future of that aid depends upon whether Egypt is a peacemaker or a troublemaker.

## SYRIA

This area could be the biggest source of trouble for Netanyahu, who will indicate to President Assad that Israel will not swap the Golan for a peace treaty.

US officials are dubious that Assad will go for Netanyahu's partial agreement notions such as deals on water and getting off the State Department Terrorism List.

Assad does not believe his options are over. Apart from having Hizbullah heat up southern Lebanon, and moving closer to Iran, there are signs that Assad believes this weekend's expected meeting with Mubarak and Saudi Arabia's King Fahd will be the key in bringing the other two regional players together to isolate Israel politically once it

becomes clear that talks over the Golan are essentially over. The last time those three met in early 1995, Israel's normalization drive with Gulf and North African countries quickly stalled.

The US is trying to forestall any precipitous action by Damascus, just as it urged all Arabs to suspend judgment on the Israeli election. Secretary of State Warren Christopher sought to convey a similar message in a phone conversation with Syrian Foreign Minister Farouk Shara and in a meeting with Saudi ambassador Bandar bin Sultan that he hopes will be forwarded by Crown Prince Abdullah and other top Saudis to Syria: Give Netanyahu a chance before reaching any far-reaching conclusions.

**Netanyahu realizes he'll need strong US backing to implement his peace policies, which will sometimes be unpopular among Arabs**

Yet Netanyahu seems to have a message of his own which he is likely to discuss with Clinton in the US at the end of this month.

In Netanyahu's words, the US needs not just a carrot approach in dealing with Damascus but also a stick approach. In a recent interview with *The Jerusalem Post*, Netanyahu spoke of what aides call a "triple containment" approach, alluding to the current US policy of "dual containment." Netanyahu said, "Just as there are no American technology transfers, oil sales [or] trade with Iran and Iraq, Syria should be warned that it would be subject to these same sanctions."

**THE UNITED STATES**  
Netanyahu realizes that, even more than Yitzhak Rabin and

Shimon Peres, who were able to keep the peace process going largely by demonstrating flexibility at the negotiating table, he will need strong US backing if he is going to be able to implement his peace policies, which will sometimes be less than popular with the Arabs.

"The US is the key to everything," a Netanyahu aide said. But it might not be easy to maintain the four-year honeymoon with the US. The US has invested enormous efforts, including some 20-odd trips by Christopher in the region in the past 3 1/2 years in a bid to reach a breakthrough on the Syrian track. Therefore Netanyahu must make the case that Israel should not be blamed for any failure. Otherwise Syria could make inroads in driving a wedge between Israel and its patron.

While Netanyahu believes he has a relatively free ride until November as Clinton won't want to hicker while he campaigns as a proven Middle East peacemaker, a second-term Clinton who does not need to face reelection could be a different story, especially if he thinks that Netanyahu is unraveling the peace that he and Rabin built.

Netanyahu will also have to overcome some personal animosity, but this should be possible. In 1990, then-secretary of state James Baker banned deputy foreign minister Netanyahu from the State Department for charging that US policy was "built upon a foundation of distortion and lies." Baker's top aide then was Dennis Ross, and he remains the head of US peace efforts today.

It is widely believed that Baker's aides accused Netanyahu of whispering to Shamir that they were "self-hating Jews," yet this was never proven and the aides and Netanyahu made their own peace.

The same reconciliation of differences is likely to occur now despite the annoyance that Netanyahu feels about having his repeated requests over the last four years for a White House meeting with Clinton blocked. Both sides are mature enough to realize they need to keep their eyes on the big picture and focus on the regional problems ahead, and not the personal pique of the past.

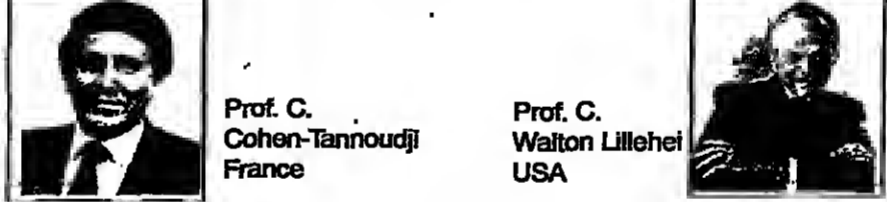


## International Board of Governors Meeting 1996

### CEREMONIES AND DEDICATIONS:

- Thursday, June 6, 1996**
  - 7:30 p.m. Harvey Prize Awards for Science and Technology Ceremony in the Churchill Auditorium
- Friday, June 7, 1996**
  - 11:00 a.m. The Faculty of Computer Science Symposium: "Tomorrow's Computerized World" Dan Carmel Hotel, Haifa
- Saturday, June 8, 1996**
  - 8:45 p.m. Festive Reception in Honor of the Members of the Board of Governors and the Technion Medal Award Ceremony Ceremony in Benjamin Auditorium, Segoe Building Reception at the Forchheimer Faculty Center
- Sunday, June 9, 1996**
  - 8:30 a.m. Miriam and Louis Benjamin-Sarasota Chapter Auditorium at the Segoe Building
  - 12:00 noon Samuel and Anne Tolkowsky Chair in Mechanical Engineering endowed by Dan and Miriam Tolkowsky Barney Seidie Chair in Construction Engineering Israel Pollak Lecture Series Fund in the Benjamin Auditorium, Segoe Building
  - 8:30 p.m. Festive Opening of the Board of Governors and the Awarding of Honorary Fellowships in the Kellner Amphitheater Address: Mr. Ezer Weizman - President of the State of Israel Jerusalem Celebrating Jerusalem's 3000th Anniversary, featuring the Jerusalem Hora Troupe Guest Speaker: Prof. Yair Zakovitch, The Hebrew University: "Jerusalem in the Visions of the Prophets"
- Monday, June 10, 1996**
  - 11:00 a.m. MEP XVII Women's Division/ATS Macromolecular Structure Research Laboratory at the Faculty of Chemistry, Seminar Room
  - 12:00 noon Abaron Rubinstein Building Materials Laboratory for Students at the National Building Research Institute
  - 1:00 p.m. Muriel and David Jackson Awards and Solomon Simon Mani Awards for Excellence in Teaching Henshel Rich Innovation Prizes Henry Taub Prizes in the Butler Auditorium, Neamen Institute Building
  - 3:00 p.m. Marilyn and Marshall Butler and Family Auditorium at the Neamen Institute Building.
- Tuesday, June 11, 1996**
  - 11:00 a.m. Beatrice Weston Unit for the Advancement of Students at the Ullmann Building, 4th floor
  - 11:45 a.m. Libby and Lewis M. Weston Laboratory for Spectroscopy of Optoelectronic Materials at the Rosen Solid State Building at the Forchheimer Faculty Center
  - 12:30 p.m. Ing. Samuel and Dudy Zabner Room at the Forchheimer Faculty Center
  - 2:30 p.m. An Afternoon with Professors and Students at the Faculty of Computer Science at the Fischbach Building: Dr. Craig Gotsman: "The Internet - Web Site Story" Dr. Shai Ben David: "Animals, Men and Machines: How Do They Learn?" Dr. Gerson Eiber: "The Grand Tour of the Intelligent Systems Lab"
  - 8:30 p.m. Conferment Ceremony of Honorary Doctorate in the Churchill Auditorium
- Wednesday, June 12, 1996**
  - 12:00 noon Yitzhak Rabin Memorial Chair in Science, Engineering and Management of Water Resources in the Benjamin Auditorium, Segoe Building
  - 12:30 p.m. Yitzhak Rabin Desalination Laboratory of the Water Research Institute endowed by Diana and Robert A. Dawidow at the Faculty of Chemical Engineering

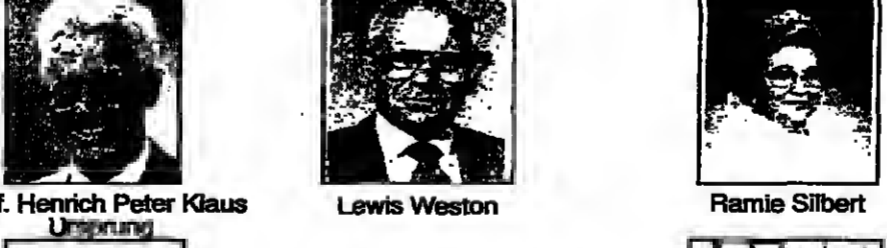
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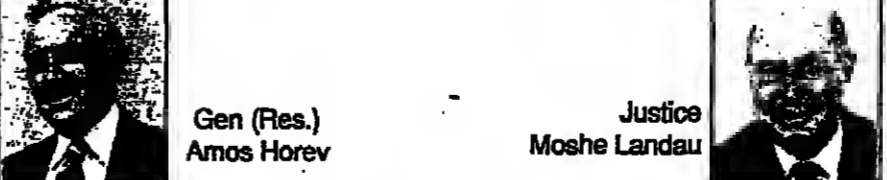
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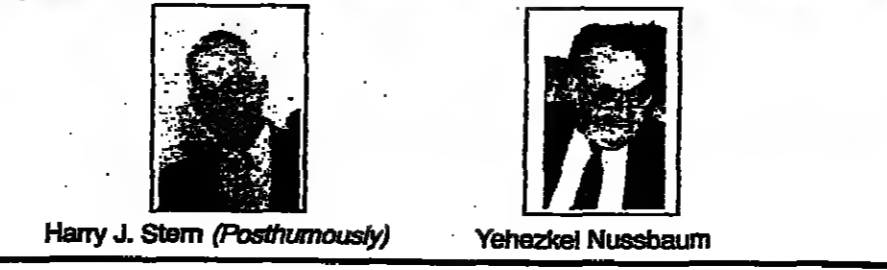
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# The Shas formula: Insight and

The party's real blessings are a knack for organization and constant contact with voters, Herb Keinon reports

**F**ILL out the forms, turn them in to us and the blessings will, with God's help, come to you soon," the master of ceremonies bellowed at a Shas political rally in Ma'aleh Adumim a week before the elections.

The rally was uniquely Shas: equal parts of politics and religious revival. "Whoever brings a chair on wheels for Rabbi Kaduri will end up having people coming to his home just to sit on the chair, just to touch the chair," the MC said, asking someone in the crowd to supply a chair for the elderly kabbalist who made an appearance at the rally. "You will receive blessings because of the chair."

The forms handed out featured a picture of Kaduri, and included space to put in wishes for blessings for family and friends. "The forms," the MC told the crowd, "will be taken to Rabbi Kaduri." The blue-and-white forms were hastily snatched up by the crowd of some 250 people — a small crowd by Shas standards — that, alongside a smattering of men in black kippot and women in head coverings, included mules sporting ponytails and earrings, and women in close-fitting slacks.

Everyone filled in the forms, with some people handing in two, three and even four. The blessings seemed to flow immediately, at least for Shas, which defied the polls and pundits and increased its Knesset strength by four seats to 10.

The key to the success, said Nissim Dahan, one of Shas's new Knesset members, is Shas leader Aryeh Deri's uncanny understanding of his constituency. He understands the deep respect his constituency has for tradition, even if they themselves are not Torah observant, and for the words and blessings of the rabbis. Deri has parlayed this understanding into one success after another at the polls.

"A MAJOR ingredient of the success was the amulets," Dahan said, "but not for the reason most people

think." Naturally, he said, the amulets were Deri's brainchild. The amulets are medallions the size of a half-shekel piece bearing Kaduri's likeness and Hebrew letters printed on it. The party handed out tens of thousands of them during the campaign, before the Central Elections Committee made them stop, saying it was an illicit way of gaining votes.

Some people believe that the amulets, which include the holy names of angels, have the power to bring them luck, or fend off evil. Others say they are the Jewish answer to the rabbi's foot.

Ironically it was Shas's detractors, from the National Religious Party to Meretz, who attributed magical powers to the amulets after the elections, saying that most of Shas's new support came from people who voted for the party only because they received the medallion and were afraid to vote against Shas, lest they incur the evil eye. "A threat to democracy," a Meretz spokesman yelled. "Pandering to superstitions," an NRP official cried.

But the reality, Dahan insisted, is different. "Our public is not stupid, they do not believe in magic and superstitions," he said. "Sure, there are people on the fringes who may have voted for us because of the amulets, but they did not provide us with four seats."

Rather, he said, the amulet provided Shas with a way to pinpoint its potential voters, and these potential voters could then be heavily canvassed by Shas activists in the field. Kabbala meets direct-mail marketing.

The brilliance of the amulet campaign was the way in which they were distributed. Shas activists did not — like the other parties — stand at busy street corners and distribute election paraphernalia to anonymous hands stretched out from passing cars. Rather, those who wanted an amulet had to fill out a form that included their address and phone number, and then received the amulets in the mail. The addresses were entered into a computer, giving Shas an excellent list of potential voters whom they



According to anthropologist Shimon Deshen, Shas's religious platform appeals to tens of thousands of Torah observant themselves, 'have a deep respect, a fear, for rabbis.'

could then approach either face-to-face or with a phone call. Anyone who showed an interest in the amulet was automatically burtonholed as a prospective Shas voter. "We then went to the people who received the amulet and explained why it was important to vote Shas," said Dahan, who headed the party's campaign in the center of the country. "Our words fell on receptive ears."

**DAHAN'S ARGUMENT** that the party did not gain its four seats because people felt obliged to vote Shas after receiving the amulet was supported by Tel Aviv University anthropologist Shimon Deshen,

who studies the religious parties. "My feeling is that the amulets did not play that important a role," he said, "but that what was more important was the ability of the voters to split their votes. This way they could cast one vote for Netanyahu and give expression to their right-wing sentiments, and cast a vote for Shas and express their ethnic identity."

Deshen said that Shas's religious platform appeals to tens of thousands of people who, although not Torah observant themselves, "have a deep respect, a fear, for rabbis. These are people for whom there is deep belief in God, in heaven, and a deep respect for Jewish heritage,

even if they do not perform all the commandments." Dahan took it further. "These are people for whom a respect for rabbinic authority is sucked in with their mother's milk as a child. These are people who care what the rabbis say, even though they do not yet listen to all their directives."

This respect for the rabbi explains why Shas went to great pains every evening during the campaign to fly Kaduri and Rabbi Ovadia Yosef, the party's spiritual mentor, from one campaign rally to the next. They appeared in front of enthusiastic throngs everywhere from Kiryat Shmona to Eilat, and they appeared

# The political clout of a 106-year-old mystic

**U**ntil this year, most Israelis had never heard of Rabbi Yitzhak Kaduri, an elderly sage and mystic living in Jerusalem's Bukharan Quarter. Now, there are many who credit him with having decided the election.

Kaduri, 106, described as a *mekubal*, a kabbalist or mystic, came into the limelight during the

**Rabbi Yitzhak Kaduri's sudden prominence may be indicative of a growing interest in Kabbala, Haim Shapiro writes**

election campaign when Shas activists began distributing amulets in the form of printed cards and medallions bearing his likeness in

relief on one side. Former Sephardi chief rabbi Mordechai Eliahu denounced the medallions as idolatrous and the Central Elections Committee ruled that the distribution of both must stop. In their place, Shas distributed forms on which one could write a petition to the aged mystic.

However, Kaduri really came to the fore when, on the day before the elections, he received prime minister-elect Benjamin Netanyahu and blessed the Likud leader, calling him the next prime minister of Israel. In an election as close as this one, it is quite possible that it was this one act which swung the balance for Netanyahu.

Amnon Levy, author of *Haharedim*, describes Kaduri as the country's senior practical kabbalist. His petitioners, Levy says, sometimes have to wait weeks, or even months, to see him. Those who want to shorten the process wait for him after morning services at his synagogue in the Bukharan Quarter.

Kaduri wears a black gown and a red hat, which Levy likens to a fez, over which is a long scarf. Typically, petitioners will leave a request with a sum of money with the sage's assistant, who tells them to come in a few days for an answer. Those who are then allowed to see Kaduri come with

three green apples, which he blesses. He is said to be particularly efficacious in determining whether a couple is well-matched.

According to Prof. Moshe Halamish of Bar-Ilan University's philosophy department, Kaduri's followers include Ashkenazim as well as Sephardim, though the tendency to use amulets has been more a part of Sephardi than Ashkenazi culture. Halamish views Kaduri as part of the centuries-old tradition of kabbalists, especially in Jerusalem, although there are others like him in Bnei Brak and elsewhere in Israel.

During the past year, there were press reports mentioning Kaduri's name in connection with a reported *pulsa dinura* ceremony, in which Prime Minister Shimon Peres was said to have been cursed in a ritual conducted with black candles. Members of Kaduri's family hotly denied that he had anything to do with any such event.

For Halamish, practical Kabbala can be described as a form of magic, in which the practitioner in some way acquires the power to determine the course of events. An amulet, he says, is based upon the magic of the written word.

"In Judaism, we pray, but we don't expect our prayers to influence the course of events," Halamish says.

On the other hand, he points out, the use of amulets dates back at least to the time of the Mishna, which in tractate *Shabbat* indicates that an amulet writer is to be regarded as an expert in his craft only if his amulets have succeeded in healing at least three times. Such a person, the Mishna says, is even permitted to write an amulet on Shabbat. Halamish adds that those who reject amulets suggest that the Mishna is trying to restrict their use by setting very high standards, while those who accept amulets point to the passage as confirming their validity.

For the practical writer of amulets, Halamish says, it is not enough to know what to write on the amulet. There is also a specific way in which it is to be written or even drawn and often a specific time. Often the writer will immerse himself in a ritual bath before beginning his task.

**THOUGH AMULETS** are part of a long-held tradition, the popularity of Kabbala and Kaduri's prominence are quite recent phenomena. In past centuries, Halamish says, there was a tendency to keep the study of Kabbala secret, both because of the fear of the power which it might unleash, and due to the erotic language used in relation

to the divinity. However, he adds, despite attempts to restrict such studies to a selected few, the number of students grew following the expulsion from Spain. With the introduction of printing, in particular, books which had been restricted to only a few now came into the hands of many. Jews were also influenced, he says, by the fact that many Christian scholars in the Renaissance translated and studied Jewish mystical works and attempted to relate them to Christian theology. Because of the perceived dangers, there were bans restricting the study, including one issued by Rabbi Moshe Isserles (the Rema) in the 16th century and a similar ban issued in Lvov in 1756. They stipulated that anyone studying such subjects must be married and at least 40 years old and that such studies must not be undertaken alone, but with a teacher. The restrictions remained especially severe for those who studied manuscripts, he says. Even today, there are kabbalists who prefer anonymity, he says, but he adds that the tendency for secre-



Kabbalist Yitzhak Kaduri casts his ballot in 1992. The day before the 1996 elections, he blessed Benjamin Netanyahu. (Ephraim Kishon)

cy is more typical among Ashkenazim than among Sephardim and that these days Kabbala has become a popular subject of study. This, he says, is partly due to a belief that in the period of redemption, both the "great and small" will study the Zohar, the central work in the study of the Kabbala. This prompts both those who believe that we are already entering into the period of redemption and those who believe that by their acts they can hasten this time, he says.

There is, of course, no formal way one becomes a kabbalist. There is no set course of study and there are no examinations. One studies with others and eventually achieves prominence among one's peers.

The ultimate deciding factor is public acceptance, Halamish notes, whether rabbinical authorities approve or not. Eliahu was far from the first to try to stop the practice with little effect.

In the Middle Ages too, the rabbis tried unsuccessfully to stop such practices. "Eliahu can shout all he wants. It won't help," Halamish says.

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The study day is intended for parents of children being treated in a children's oncology-hematology department at one of the hospitals in Israel.

The study day will be held on Wednesday, June 12, 1996, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m., at the Sheraton Tel Aviv Hotel, 115 Hayarkon Street, Tel Aviv.

Program:

9:00 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. General lectures by experts on "Cancer - Innovations and Treatment"

1:30 - 2:30 p.m. Lunch

2:30 - 4:00 p.m. Discussion Groups - Meetings of parents with a variety of experts, according to type of illness

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# A pre-Disney theme park that's for real

Efteling is older than Disneyworld, and more popular than Israel, Haim Shapiro reports



Efteling features not only classic fairy-tale exhibits like Hansel and Gretel in their gingerbread house (left), but also real-life attractions like Pirana, a spectacular wild water adventure.



As a parent, I have been literally dragged out of what may be a record number of famous museums and historic sites.

In the days when my children were small enough to feel that way, they told me on more than one occasion that they never want to see a boring museum or a smelly old church again. I wish that I had known about Efteling, a pre-Disney theme park in southern Holland, the largest of its kind in Europe and a place where the stone castles and wooden turrets are made with real stones and real wood. Its new entrance, The House of the Five Senses, is said to have the biggest thatched roof in the world.

You can also walk on real ground, under real trees, and see more real hills than are on display at Keukenhof, Holland's famous tulip fields. I visited Efteling as the guest of Travel Makers, an Israel-based tour company, which represents the park and organizes package tours which include the attraction.

The fairy-tale theme park was opened in 1949, long before Disneyland, the first of the Disney theme parks, opened its doors. At Efteling, the characters were all based on images designed by the Dutch artist Anton Pieck. According to the people at Efteling, Disney himself visited Efteling before

embarking on his own theme park.

The vast park is located in South Holland, not far from the cities of Breda and Eindhoven and just over the border from Antwerp in Belgium. It is accessible by public transport - Dutch railways sell a reduced-price combined ticket covering the train and entry to the park. In 1995, it attracted more than 2.5 million visitors - more than visited Israel during the same year. This year, for the first time, Efteling also has an adjoining 18-hole golf course.

THE crowds at Efteling are largely made up of families with small children, although there are plenty of unaccompanied teenagers.

Languages heard include Dutch, followed by French and German, with only a sprinkling of English. The recorded messages at the attractions are in Dutch, while written explanations are in all four languages. Most of the attractions, however, need no spoken language. The admission fee of 32.50 Dutch florins (about \$20) includes all rides and attractions.

For example, visitors will instantly recognize Sleeping Beauty, her chest gently rising and falling, a handkerchief with a drop of blood in her hand, while the wicked witch spins away in the antechamber. Nor is it difficult to recognize Hansel and Gretel in their gingerbread house, or Snow White surrounded by the seven dwarfs.

The dwarfs are pre-Disney figures, with distinctive faces. I am not sure how today's children, raised on television and movie stereotypes, will react. Perhaps the thought of an amusement park without Mickey Mouse will be too much of a strain, or perhaps they too will breathe a sigh of relief.

For visitors from this part of the world, an attraction that should not be missed is Fata Morgana, an Arabian Nights fantasy with elements from Tangier to Delhi. What makes this special are not the realistic figures or "frightening" effects, which might be experienced in many other theme parks, but rather the poor quarters, where visitors are solicited by beggars, and the sultan's palace, where they see the harem

and chests overflowing with jewels. For the adventurous, Efteling has two roller coasters, a dry bobsled run, and a water-adventure ride known as the Pirana. There are other boat rides, a train which circles the entire park, and two rowing ponds.

It is, they say, the largest such park in Europe. The pagoda, which raises visitors up 40 meters and revolves, provides a sweeping panorama, affording a bird's eye view. Incidentally, our group of Israeli journalists had the distinction of being the first to ever drop a camera from the pagoda.

THE Villa Volta succeeds in providing a thrill with relatively little movement. The attraction is based upon the tale of an 18th-

century robber baron who rampaged through southern Holland, robbing and killing. After he robbed a church, however, he was cursed that he would never find peace in his own house.

Visitors enter the robber's "house" and are seated in benches facing each other on two sides. The benches begin to sway back and forth. They do not go that far, but while they are swaying the entire room begins to revolve, giving participants the feeling that they are being turned upside down.

More conventional accommodation is provided by the Efteling Hotel, a two-minute walk from the park, but in some cases the accommodation is only slightly more conventional. For the most part, the 121 rooms of the hotel

have standard facilities, with two double beds, TV, bath, hair dryer, trouser press and so on. However, there are a dozen theme rooms where guests can indulge in their favorite fantasies.

There is a golfer's room, complete with a putting green and a closet in the form of dressing-room lockers, a Fifities room, with its own jukebox and a bed which is part of a vintage Cadillac. There are fairy-tale rooms with bowls of candy, and a room dedicated to John Pemberton, the inventor of Coca-Cola, where you can get all the Coke you can drink.

The most spectacular is the bridal suite, with its own Jacuzzi for two and a large round bed which revolves while playing music under a mirror on the ceiling.

## Catch the spirit of Beit Jimal while you can

THERE are two reasons to visit Beit Jimal - its association with Rabbai Gamaliel and the fact that it is about to be engulfed in the urban sprawl of Beit She'an.

To reach the site by car, drive south from the Shishshun Junction, past Beit She'an. On the left of the road, you can see mammoth roadworks and preparations for a large addition to the town, which once had a reputation for being a disadvantaged community.

When you turn left at the sign to Beit Jimal, do not be discouraged by the fact that you are on a dirt road. The asphalt resumes after a few dozen meters.

It will bring you eventually to a square, rather pedestrian-looking 19th-century monastery.

It was built by the Silesian Fathers, an order which establishes vocational schools for boys around the world.

In the back of the monastery is the church, built in 1933 on the foundation of an older Byzantine chapel.

Fragments of the mosaic floors from the structure have been restored and are displayed along the entry hall.

The chapel itself is a lesson in kitsch. Imitative mosaics in lurid colors line the wall, and above them are frescoes with baby-blue skies.

Only the wooden-beamed ceiling, painted in the sort of folk-pattern one might expect to see on a Sicilian donkey cart, provides relief.

On the south side of the church, near the altar, are a series of stairs going down to the crypt. The monks who built the church associated the crypt with that of the Byzantine Beit Gamala, where ossuaries containing the bones of both Rabbai Gamaliel the Elder and of St. Stephen were said to be buried.

According to the New Testament, St. Paul was once a student of Gamaliel. There is a Christian tradition which says that St. Stephen was also a student of the noted talmudic sage.

The crypt is now empty, having been robbed of its contents centuries ago, thus sparing us at least one religious dispute.

The decr of the chapel does not seem to have deterred the many musicians who regularly come there to give concerts or the audiences who attend these events.

In the summer, the concerts are held every two weeks, late Saturday afternoon, after the heat of the day has passed.

At a nearby shop, you can buy olive oil and wine produced by the monks of Latrun from the grapes tended by the monks of

### SEE IT HERE

HAIM SHAPIRO

Beit Jimal

Just below the monastery is a convent, the home of the Sisters of Bethlehem, a contemplative order which is so strict that not only do the nuns rarely speak to each other, they even eat most of their meals alone.

Only on Sunday do they have a joint meal and a few hours in which they may converse.

The nuns, who have built the entire convent with their own hands, treasure their privacy and do not encourage visitors. However, they do have a shop

where they sell their ceramic work, and they allow visitors to view their church from a balcony. The church is austere in style, with virtually no decorations and separate choir stalls along the walls.

BOTH the monastery and the convent are open from about 9 a.m. to noon, and then again from 2 p.m. to 6 p.m.

The monastery and convent are surrounded by trees under which the monks and nuns are apparently not averse to visitors having picnics. From there, you can enjoy what is left of the view, while it lasts.

## Far East travel needs special preparation

WITH the close of the academic year, Deputy Foreign Minister Eli Dayan has sent a letter of warning to those planning a trip to the Far East. The letter, distributed through travel agents, calls on the would-be travelers to equip themselves thoroughly before they leave home, out to travel alone in areas known to be dangerous, and to acquaint themselves with local laws, especially those regarding drug trafficking.

As the letter points out, some countries have mandatory death penalties for long prison terms for those who sell even a small quantity of drugs.

FOR STUDENTS and young people seeking a vacation closer to home, ISSIA, which specializes in this travel, reports that a week in the Greek islands can cost less than NIS 1,500.

### TRAVEL TIPS

HAIM SHAPIRO

The company is marketing a seven-night package to Santorini, Ios and Naxos for \$569. The company is also selling six-night packages to Bodrum from \$485.

FOR THE elderly, Pelms is offering a golden-age tour of Scandinavia and St. Petersburg with tours in a bus with a lavatory.

FOR OTHERS seeking very low prices, there is a wide range of opportunities for travel in Bulgaria, available from Baron Tours.

The price of a 10-day tour starts at \$697, a round-trip flight to Sofia costs from \$320, and the price of a four-day package visit starts at \$299.

IN EILAT, the new Holiday Inn

Among the attractions available in London this summer are the replica of Shakespeare's Globe Theater, which is to open on August 21 with The Two Gentlemen of Verona. Also opening in August is Segaworld, billed as "the world's largest futuristic indoor theme park."

SWITZERLAND can be affordable, according to Swissair, which has published a "Summer '96 Budget Holiday Offer." Included are biking and hiking excursions and apartment rentals. For example, a one-room apartment for two rents for Sfr 312 a week until mid-July, going up to Sfr 391 until late August.

## A return to Jewish roots... LITHUANIA LATVIA ESTONIA ST. PETERSBURG

A Jerusalem Post Travel Club tour planned by Geographical Tours / Neot Hakikar.

The Baltic states, before the Holocaust home to hundreds of thousands of Jews, is only now, after the demise of the Soviet Union, welcoming visitors. With an English-speaking guide from Geographical Tours, we'll visit Vilna, the "Jerusalem of Lithuania" and tour its ghetto, synagogues, memorials, etc. Then to Kovna (Kaons) and Riga (visiting the old city, garden of statues, etc.) and the Ramboli Forest. Next on the itinerary is Tallin, capital of Estonia on the Gulf of Finland, with its port and old city. From there we'll continue to St. Petersburg (Leningrad), Russia's second largest city. We'll visit its museums, the Czar's Winter Palace, the world-famous Hermitage Museum, the Peter and Paul Fortress, the destroyer Aurora (from where the 1917 revolution started), the Piskravskaia Cemetery and stroll along the banks of the Nieva River and the renowned Nievsky Prospect. And that's not all.

We'll stay in first-class or quality tourist hotels, travel in air-conditioned buses, be accompanied by a full-time English-speaking guide from Geographical Tours in Israel, and a local guide where necessary. The price includes all this plus the round-trip flight, half board accommodations (breakfast and evening meal) and admission to all sites.

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We'll meet members of various local tribes, including nomads and Bantu farmers.

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Handwritten note at the top of the page.

BUSINESS & FINANCE

FRIDAY, JUNE 7, 1996

17

Just not Sharon

ON THE AGENDA AMOTZ ASA-EL

A SUDDEN change in time-honored rules is usually difficult to digest...

One can understand, therefore, Sharon's pretensions to dictate an agenda for prime minister-elect Binyamin Netanyahu...

Apparently, Sharon is under the impression that the political ecosystem to which he has grown so accustomed during 15 ministerial years should remain intact under Israel's new governmental system.

He is wrong. Twisting the premier's hand the way he did to Yitzhak Shamir back in 1990 no longer works.

Moreover, Sharon's wailing that it was he who bandaged Likud's wounds by prodding David Levy to return home is misleading, much like Sharon's cries that he facilitated Netanyahu's victory by withdrawing from the race for the premiership.

If anything, Sharon played a major role in Likud's near-dis-

memberment six years ago when he relentlessly, openly and rudely undermined Shamir's position.

Surely, Sharon's attempts to disturb Netanyahu's work - both by interfering in his choice of finance minister, and by running a televised tour of hassidic rabbis as a means of pressure - are in themselves alarming and should disqualify him for the Treasury.

The next finance minister should be an obedient lieutenant on the one hand, and a graduate of the business sector on the other. Sharon is neither.

The next finance minister should be a staunch capitalist, fully committed to privatization, intimately familiar with capital markets and a darling of investment houses from Wall Street to Tokyo.

The next finance minister should be an old-style Treasury which, like other ministries he previously headed, would generate plenty of spoils for cronies and little reform for us.

Housing starts plunge in first quarter of '96

Jerusalem Post Staff

THERE were 11,790 housing starts during the first quarter of the year, a 42 percent decline in comparison with the corresponding period last year, the Central Bureau of Statistics reported yesterday.

The figure indicates a decline also in comparison with the previous quarter, though a much more moderate 2%. The 20,200 housing starts registered in 1995's first quarter were the most in any quarter since 1991.

Of this year's first-quarter housing starts, 8,330 were by the private sector, a decline of 9% in comparison with the corresponding period last year, while the public sector's 3,460 housing starts reflected a 69% plunge in comparison with last year's first quarter.

Housing completions during the first quarter reached 12,202, a 44% drop in comparison with last year's first quarter. Overall space in houses completed during the first quarter totaled 2.19 million sq.m., 35% more than their level in last year's first quarter.

Residential-housing completions over the first quarter stood at 1.75 million sq.m., 12% lower than the previous quarter, but 42% higher than its level during the corresponding period last year.

As of March 31, the total inventory of apartments under construction reached 90,100, 11% more than its level at the end of last year's first quarter, the CBS reported.

Jerusalem Bank seeks merger with General Bank

GALIT LIPKIS BECK

JERUSALEM Bank, in partnership with its parent company Export Investment, is expected to bid for the purchase of General Bank next week.

Other contenders include Union Bank, the Etgar fund in partnership with investors from Columbia, Brazilian banker Edmundo Safdie, and a consortium headed by the Dankner group.

Industry sources, who estimate Baron Edmond de Rothschild's 52.8% share in the bank will be sold for about \$50m., consider the Jerusalem Bank a "perfect" buyer for General Bank.

The purchase of General Bank will enable Jerusalem Bank, which specializes in mortgages, to immediately enter into the fields defined in the framework of its business plan, without the need to increase its capital in the short term, according to a

management report which will be presented to Jerusalem Bank's board of directors Sunday.

"Unlike many other banks, General Bank does not have a complicated loan portfolio," said one banker, who described the bank as "a little inefficient" but also ripe for a significant improvement of its capital returns.

The prevalent feeling in the industry is also that the field of private banking on the whole is set for expansion.

Industry sources believe the Jerusalem Bank has a very good chance of acquiring Baron Edmond de Rothschild's shares since the two institutions' managements have good ties, and because Supervisor of Banks Zeev Abeles favors the merger.

Jerusalem Bank's management claims control of General Bank will enable the purchasers to go ahead with their business plan which involves expansion of activities in the capital market, mortgages and private banking. The

business plan, which was submitted to the board in January, is based on the recommendations of David Blumberg, deputy chairman of the bank and chairman of the executive management committee.

According to the management's report, which will be submitted to Jerusalem Bank's board early next week, the purchase would allow an immediate entry into activities defined in the business plan. Consequently, the bank would save the direct cost of adjusting the foundation needed to operate in private banking and capital markets, while also saving expenses resulting from a loss of income during the set-up period and first stages of operation.

In addition, control would reduce labor expenses and also the time and effort it takes to obtain licenses and approvals necessary to go ahead with its strategic plan, according to Jerusalem Bank's management.

The combination of both banks' activities, and the subsequent operation of a private bank with mortgages and capital-market services, would allow for a more efficient usage of the existing foundations of both banks while also generating savings in operating costs, particularly in manpower, said the report.

BUSINESS IN BRIEF

Negative yields for commercial banks' provident funds: The commercial banks' provident funds achieved negative real yields of 0.5%-1% in May, according to estimates.

Jerusalem Post Staff

Koor buys 6% of Shemen

GALIT LIPKIS BECK

KOOR Industries has purchased six percent of food producer Shemen for NIS 4.3 million.

The shares were purchased in an off-floor transaction Wednesday, via Koor's brokerage firm, Koor Investment House, a subsidiary of Koor Capital Markets.

A Koor spokesperson confirmed that the company has increased its share in Shemen, add-

ing that the purchase is in the framework of Koor's business strategy to increase its holdings of companies that make up its main business.

The transaction was concluded about two weeks after Shemen signed an agreement to sell 50 percent of its wholly-owned subsidiary Sod to the German Henkel consortium for NIS 23.59m. The two companies have agreed to establish a new company under equal control, for the manufacturing and marketing of toiletries and detergents.

Russia's grab of central bank money worries economists

MOSCOW (Reuters) - Government plans to use trillions of rubles of central bank cash are ringing alarm bells about the state of the economy just 10 days before Russians go to the polls to elect a new president.

Economists said yesterday the plan would pump inflationary rubles into the financial system just as monthly price rises have reached an all-time low.

The law transferring five trillion rubles (\$1 billion) of central bank profits to the government was approved by President Boris Yeltsin late on Wednesday after being rushed through parliament in the teeth of central bank opposition.

"It's certainly inflationary," said Gavin Rankin, head of research at Troika Dialog brokerage.

The move highlights tensions between a central bank intent on a tough anti-inflationary policy and a cash-strapped finance ministry looking for every available ruble, said United City Bank economist Christopher Granville.

The government needs money for defense industries and to pay teachers in the regions. Tax revenues are well below budgeted levels, and borrowing costs on the government bond market have soared to 180 percent a year.

In an election manifesto last week, Yeltsin said the government would scrap inflationary budgets, eliminate the deficit by 2000, bring inflation down to five percent a year, and achieve economic growth of four percent.

Yeltsin and his ministers, trying to win over voters disenchanted with the pain of economic reform, have predicted the economy will start to climb out of recession this year.

But Economy Minister Yevgeny Yasin said on Wednesday that gross domestic product would fall 2%-3% this year. And despite a government

drive to pay off wage arrears this spring, unpaid back wages totaled nearly 24 trillion rubles at the start of May, up 15% on January, the Economy Ministry said. Most money is owed by the private sector.

That would leave the stability of the ruble and fall in inflation as the government's main economic achievements.

The monthly rise in prices slowed to 1.6% in May, the smallest rise since reforms began in 1992, from 2.2% in April. In January last year, it was 17.8%.

Economists said those gains could be threatened by the new law on central bank profits.

"It has economic consequences. I wouldn't want to exaggerate them, we're talking about five trillion rubles, not 50 trillion, but it would tend to be expansionary," said one economist.

Campaign spending promises by Yeltsin are already likely to fuel inflation if carried out.

"May 1.6% isn't a sustainable rate given the spending that's occurred before the election," said James Fenkner, director of research at CentreInvest Securities.

But he said the trend in annual inflation was still down.

The State Statistics Committee puts annual inflation at 27% if present trends continue, after 131% in 1995.

Yeltsin's economic adviser Alexander Livshits said new central bank law would help solve economic problems and should not damage the economy.

But Sergei Aleksashenko, first deputy central bank chairman, said the move contravened the law on the central bank, which might go to court about it.

This law prevents the government from taking direct credits from the central bank, something the government again pledged not to do when it negotiated a \$10 billion three-year loan from the International Monetary Fund this year.

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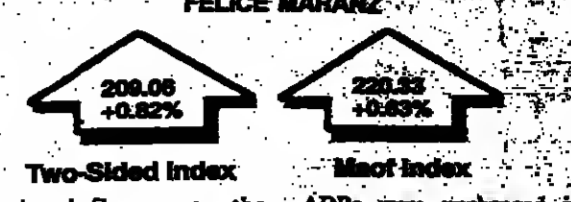
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ISRAEL MONEY MARKETS Table with columns for Currency (Israeli Lira), U.S. dollar, Pound sterling, German mark, Swiss franc, Yen, etc. and rows for 3 MONTHS, 6 MONTHS, 12 MONTHS.

Growing confidence in Netanyahu boosts TASE stock prices

TEL AVIV STOCK MARKET



THE major influence on the stock market in the days ahead is expected to be the shape of the government prime minister-elect, Benjamin Netanyahu appoints, particularly his finance minister.

Stock indexes rose yesterday, boosted by gaining share prices in Israeli companies traded on Wall Street and by growing confidence in Netanyahu will implement economic reform.

FTSE closes higher amid slight interest rate cut

LONDON (Reuters) - Leading UK shares closed higher but with a distinctly muted reaction to news of a surprise 1/4 point cut in domestic interest rates, to 5.75 percent.

PARIS - Shares ended higher, buoyed by a surprise interest rate cut by the Bank of France but bumping up against technical resistance.

NEW YORK (AP) - Stocks moved lower yesterday as a drop in interest rates failed to offset worries that today's key employment report will include inflationary trends.

On Wall Street, the Dow Jones industrial average dropped 30.29 points to close at 5,667.19, after retreating from a gain of more than 25 points at the open.

Broad-market indexes also turned lower after a strong opening. The NYSE composite index and the Standard and Poor's 500 list trailed lower after a brief moment to record territory for the first time in nearly two weeks.

The Nasdaq market retreated from Wednesday's record close as key technology issues such as Intel, Sun Microsystems and Cisco Systems declined.

Technology shares were also weak on the NYSE, where Digital Equipment fell after Goldman Sachs reportedly lowered its earnings estimate for the computer maker.

Stocks initially took their cue from bonds, which leaped higher this morning, sending the yield

Key Representative Rates. US dollar ... NIS 5.2720 -0.15%. Sterling ... NIS 5.0490 -0.23%. Mark ... NIS 2.1412 +0.15%.

NYSE STOCK MARKETS

New York market indexes. DJ Industrials 8867.19 -35.28. DJ 30 Industrials 8258.68 -1.47.

NYSE stocks. Unchanged Advances Declines. Shares 754 1000 1387.

Other stock market indexes. FTSE 100 3263.2 -35.1. Nikkei 22382.0 -1.07.

Israeli stocks in NY. NYSE/AMEX. Amrad A 3.75 -0.15. Amrad B 3.75 -0.15.

NASDAQ/over-the-counter. AG Associates 7.8 -0.75. Adco 1.15 -0.15.

Libor rates. Dollar 3 months 5.5713 0.00. Dollar 6 months 5.5875 0.00.

Foreign financial data courtesy of CommStock Trading Ltd. Futures, Options, Stocks, Bonds and Mutual Funds.

US commodities. Cocoa (LM) 62.00 -0.25. Coffee (LM) 110.00 -0.25.

London commodities. Coffee (LM) 110.00 -0.25. Cocoa (LM) 62.00 -0.25.

Spot market metals (US). Gold 385.8 -0.4. Silver 5.2 -0.01.

New York metal futures. Gold (Aug) 385.4 -0.1. Silver (Aug) 5.2 -0.1.

London metal fixes. Gold AM in 385.7 -0.2. Gold PM in 385.5 -0.2.

TEL AVIV STOCKS

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Large table of stock prices for various companies including Commercial Banks, Mortgage Banks & Finance, Financial Institutions, Trade & Services, Property, Building & Real Estate, and Oil Exploration.

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NY stocks close lower

Table of NY stock prices including Dow Jones, NYSE Composite, and various individual stock prices.

CURRENCY CROSS-RATES

Table of currency exchange rates for Sterling, Yen, SFY, and FFY.







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The Eastern Kibreet Factories Co. in Nablus is accepting bids for the sale of used machinery and junk. The material may be inspected between 9 a.m. and 11 a.m., June 9 and 10, 1996, on the company's premises in the Kibreet neighborhood, east of the old prison. Bids must comply with the written conditions that will be distributed to the bidders coming to inspect the material. Bids must be delivered in sealed envelopes to the Haj Taher Al-Masri Company, Hettin St., Nablus, on Sunday, June 16, 1996. Tel. 09-370027.

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# Real estate executive accused of embezzling NIS 30m.

RAINE MARCUS

THE comptroller of a Bank Hapoalim subsidiary was remanded for eight days yesterday by the Tel Aviv Magistrate's Court, on suspicion he embezzled some NIS 30 million over a 10-year period, one of the biggest frauds in the country's history.

Yosef Topol, 55, of Rishon LeZion, is the controller of Amot Investments, which deals in commercial real estate. He was arrested on Tuesday after a lengthy undercover investigation, and is being kept in solitary confinement and under strict supervision in the Abu Kabir lock-up, for fear he might harm himself.

As comptroller of the company for the last 26 years, he was permitted to sign checks together with another senior employee who had signatory rights. According to police, Topol simply forged the other signature, and made the checks out to family members. He then would forge the copies of the checks for the ledgers, which showed the checks were ostensibly made payable to the Mifalei Tahnot company, a partner in several of Amot's projects. Topol is also suspected of forging documents ostensibly sent by the company confirming the checks.

During questioning, Topol admitted forging around "NIS 12 million or so in checks." But police suspect the total amount might be more than NIS 30m.



Yosef Topol (left), the controller of Amot Investments, is brought to Tel Aviv Magistrate's Court for a remand hearing yesterday. He is suspected of embezzling tens of millions of shekels from the company.

Sources said Topol has offered to cooperate with detectives and even turn state's witness against others individuals, who, he said, were involved in even larger scams.

Topol claimed to have spent the money, but he lives in a middle-class apartment in Rishon LeZion and apparently does not maintain an extravagant life-style. His family members were also questioned.

Police are still searching for the missing millions, which are not in any of his bank accounts here. Police speculate that Topol transferred the embezzled funds to Swiss or other foreign bank accounts. They are also investigating whether off-shore straw companies were started under false names.

Amot Investments is one of the largest real estate companies in

the country, holding hundreds of millions of shekels' worth of property for sale and rental. Two weeks ago, Bank Hapoalim director Amiram Sivan was questioned by police in connection with suspicions that he transferred bank funds to Amot, to be invested in real estate projects, in violation of the Banking Law. He was released after being questioned under caution.

# Israel, Arab neighbors discuss Dead Sea planning

LIAT COLLINS

POORLY planned development might kill the Dead Sea, according to Israeli, Jordanian, and Palestinian environmentalists who participated in a conference in Tel Aviv yesterday, entitled "The Dead Sea - Future Challenges."

The conference was organized by EcoPeace, a regional non-governmental organization environmental body; the Society for the Protection of Nature in Israel; and Life and Environment, an umbrella organization of Israeli green bodies.

Much of the conference concentrated on the threats posed by plans to build 50,000 hotel rooms in the Dead Sea area, from the north where the Palestinian Authority is planning to construct tourism facilities, to Ein Bokek in the south.

Many of the participants said they fear poor planning would result in a long continuous stretch of hotels which would create a blight on the landscape and strain resources, ultimately ruining the tourism potential for all.

Members of the Jordanian Royal Society for the Conservation of Nature, SPNI and EcoPeace presented a joint stand whose main points include: developing tourism in defined, distant areas separated by wide reaches of natural landscape; giving pref-

erence to adding to existing tourism sites rather than developing new ones; and establishing a joint team to examine project plans and make recommendations from the regional environmental viewpoint. "The best relative advantages in developing tourism can be found in the north close to the international roads, manpower supplies and water sources," said Israeli geologist Eli Raz. "The best model would be big centers in the north and south which would meet most of the demand, while preserving stretches of coast between them as undisturbed landscape. Similarly, bathing beaches could be prepared where feasible."

Among the speakers were Jordanian engineers Mahmoud Khoshman and Ra'ed Daoud, whose recommendations include introducing clean water into the Jordan River by all sides; the possible excavation of a Dead Sea-Red Sea Canal; sewage treatment as part of water development projects; and establishing a joint research center to study water, agriculture and environmental issues. The conference was part of a larger project which will end with a meeting in Jordan on June 13, after which a report will be published.

**WEATHER**

City	Forecast
Tel Aviv	22-28
Jerusalem	17-23
Haifa	18-23
Beersheva	18-22
Dead Sea	27-33
Eilat	25-30

Forecast: Partly cloudy to clear. No change in temperature. Shabbat: Partly cloudy to clear.

**AROUND THE WORLD:**

City	Low	High	Forecast
Amsterdam	12	15	cloudy
Berlin	12	15	cloudy
Bombay	25	32	clear
Brussels	12	15	cloudy
Chicago	12	15	cloudy
London	12	15	cloudy
Madrid	12	15	cloudy
Moscow	12	15	cloudy
New York	12	15	cloudy
Paris	12	15	cloudy
Rome	12	15	cloudy
Tokyo	12	15	cloudy
Washington	12	15	cloudy

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## At the festival



Jerusalem Theater (JT):  
Sherover: Theater, *Vayomer Vayelech* by the Itim Ensemble, today, 1 p.m.; dance, *Land of Rape and Honey* by Liat Dror and Nir Ben Gal; tomorrow, 9 p.m. Henry Crown: Comedy, *The Bible Abridged* by The Reduced Shakespeare Co. 2 p.m.; classical, The Emerson Quartet, tomorrow, 9-15 p.m.

Rebecca Crown: Alternative music, *Koko the Clown/History of the Last Five Minutes* with Samm Bennett and Hahn Rowe. Tomorrow, 9:30 p.m.

JT plaza: Family, Jerusalem Saxophones, tomorrow, 8:30 p.m.

JT foyer: Jazz, Masa Umatan Quartet, tomorrow, 11 p.m.

Gerard Behar: dance, *Know Your Enemy* from Slovenia's Betoulanc. 3 p.m.

Binyanei Ha'uma extra performance, Zakir Hussain and percussionists. 2 p.m.; tomorrow, 9 p.m.

Dormition Abbey: violinist Thomas Zechtmair plays Bach solo violin. Tomorrow, 9 p.m.

Targ Center pianorama, Program C, tomorrow, 11 a.m.

## 'Ties with Vatican not dependent on peace process'

HAIM SHAPIRO

RELATIONS between the Vatican and the State of Israel are not part of the peace process and not dependent on it, Apostolic Nuncio Archbishop Andrea di Montezemolo said this week.

Montezemolo, the first official Vatican diplomatic representative here, was speaking at a ceremony at which he received the Interfaith Gold Medallion presented annually by Sir Sigmund Sternberg, chairman of the International Conference of Christians and Jews. The ceremony, organized by

ment between Israel and the Vatican is between two sovereign bodies, rather than between two religious bodies. It is not part of the dialogue between the two religions, he said. However, he added, the agreement has implications for Catholics all over the world, just as it has for Jews all over the world.

## Drivers get license extensions due to sanctions

DRIVERS who have not been able to renew their licenses because of work stoppages in the Transport Ministry's Licensing Bureau are to receive an automatic extension, the ministry announced yesterday.

The stoppages are in the bureau's computer section, where drivers have not been sent forms to renew their licenses since May 20. The extension is from May 20 to July 31, Transport Ministry spokesman Avner Ovadya said yesterday.

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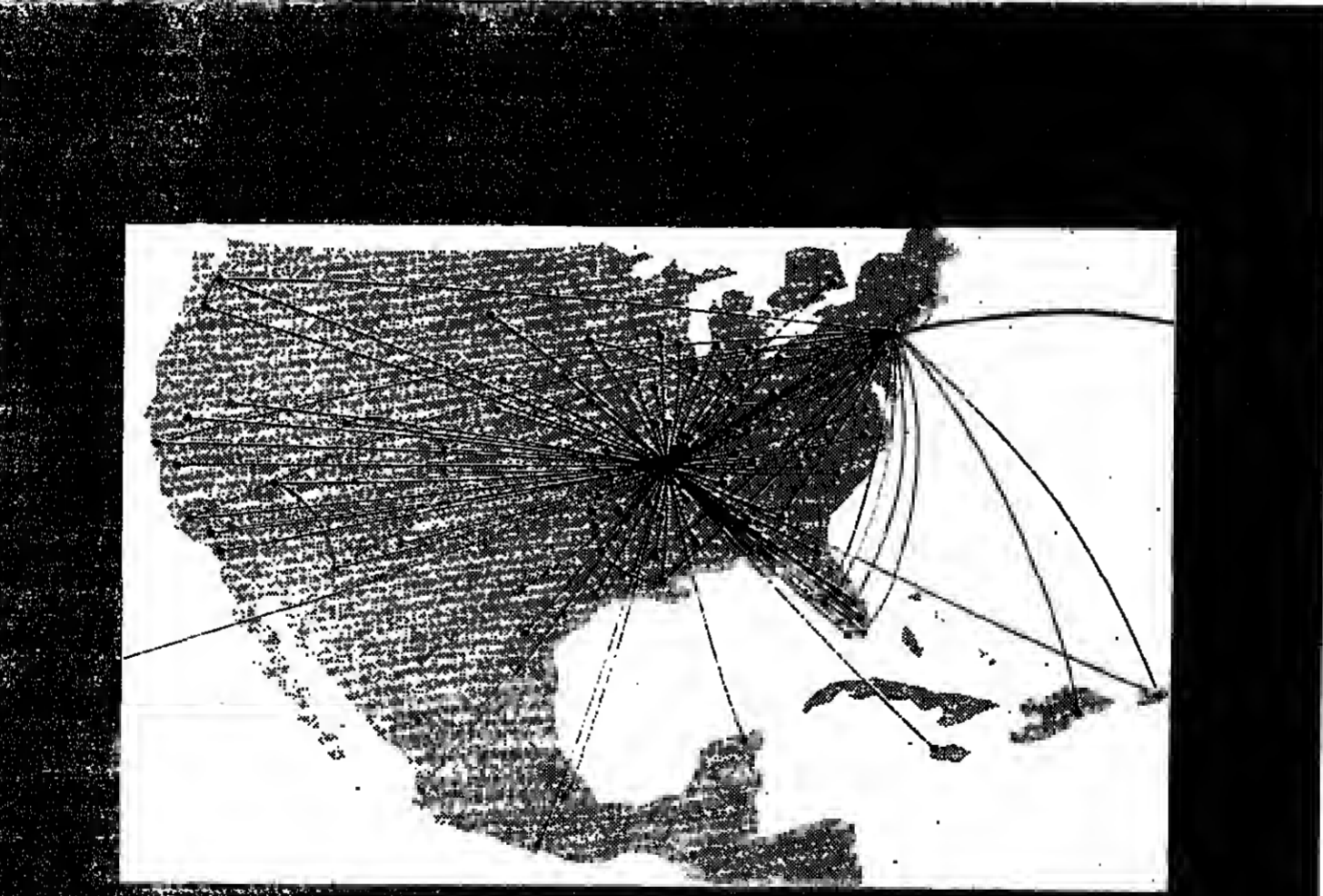
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Recorded Information: 03-5863988 (24 hours)

## Deri defense continues to plead 'no case'

THE defense team in the trial of Shas leader MK Aryeh Deri and three others continued its "no case" arguments in Jerusalem District Court yesterday.



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